The 2003 Arts Act permits a local authority to provide financial assistance for the purposes of stimulating public interest in the arts, promoting the knowledge, appreciation and practices of the arts or improving standards in the arts. In this act, 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, literature, dance and Multi-disciplinary practices and events.

The following details are available to download here:

**Categories**

1. **Groups and Organisations promoting arts:** Kilkenny County Council will consider applications from organisations involved in the promotion of the arts in Kilkenny.
2. **Individual Artists all Art forms :** Kilkenny County Council will consider applications from practising artists living in Kilkenny to enable them to pursue their practice and to develop within their chosen discipline, including professional development and project awards

**An application for a grant may be made under one of the above categories only. Groups and individuals can only make one application for an Arts Act Grants annually.**

**Criteria**

**Applications will be assessed based on the following:**

1. Groups, organisations and individuals seeking assistance must be based in the Kilkenny administrative area for a minimum of 3 years to be eligible.
2. Projects and events must take place in the Kilkenny administrative areas and have specific significance to the Kilkenny administrative area.
3. Groups, organisations and individuals seeking assistance must be involved in arts activities which, in the opinion of the Council:
4. develop a knowledge of the arts and arts practice, their own and that of others,
5. promote the arts and arts practice to the public,
6. develop an appreciation of the arts and arts practice, their own and that of others,
7. assist in improving the standards of the arts and arts practice.
8. The project’s aims and objectives must be clearly stated and in line with two or more of points above.
9. The artist / organisation must clearly demonstrate their capacity to successfully plan and execute the project / event, including budget management, marketing and evaluation.
10. Assistance received through the Arts Act Grants should form part of the income funding the project, a **minimum of 20% match funding is required**.
11. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at the time of making their application.
12. **That the application form and budget sheet must be completed in full.**
13. **Relevant supporting information must be included with your application.**
14. All additional information requested must also be included in your application
15. **Please note that any application that does not comply with the above conditions will automatically be ineligible for consideration for Arts Act Grant funding.**

**Conditions and further details**

1. The funding offered must only be used for the purposes specified in your application.
2. The award must be spent within 12 months of receipt.
3. Where a grant is allocated for a specific event / project Kilkenny County Council will not be responsible for the insurance of that event / project. Kilkenny County Council recommends that the organisers ensure that adequate insurance is in place prior to the commencement of any event / project.
4. If the event or project is altered, postponed or cancelled – in whole or in part – the Kilkenny County Councils Arts Officer, Mary Butler, must be contacted in order to discuss the matter.
5. Kilkenny County Council must be acknowledged on all publicity, press and marketing material, websites and social media outlets produced in connection with the undertaking or event. Logos will be sent to all successful applicants
6. Copies of all such material produced must be sent to the Arts Office at the time of the event and as part of the Evaluation Report.
7. All organisations and individuals must provide **a minimum of 20% funding** towards their project / undertaking.
8. **Any groups or individuals working with children or vulnerable adults must provide a Child Protection / vulnerable adults Policy in order to receive their grant. If a group/individual is not in a position to develop a Policy of their own, they will sign a declaration verifying that they have read and will comply with Kilkenny County Councils Policy and Procedures.**
9. Also, please note for applicants applying for an Arts Act Grant  and who are also applying for an Artlinks Bursary, you are **NOT** eligible to receive both funding sources, if you are successful. Only one funding source will be available.
10. Selection of projects/events will be made through the appointment of **an independent expert assessment panel.**
11. **What we do not fund:** It is the Council’s intention that support be given to a broad range of artistic disciplines and grants will not cover
    1. capital or equipment
    2. building programmes
    3. third party grants
    4. ongoing revenue costs
    5. general administration costs
    6. assistance to cover loans or deficits
    7. projects which could be undertaken on a commercial basis
    8. a proposal which does not have an artistic objective, for example sport, heritage, general recreation, etc.
    9. grants may not be used for non-artistic purposes, for example fund raising, as prize money, the purchase of medals, cups etc.
    10. funds will not be made available to assist charity fundraising events
    11. the hire fee of Council premises
12. **The amounts awarded to any project/event will be in the realms of €200-€1000** **\* If your project idea exceeds the** **€1,000 please provide a comprehensive rationale for the budget** **amount you require. In exceptional circumstances and** **dependent on numbers and quality of applications received certain** **applications amounts in excess of €1,000 may be awarded at the discretion of the independent panel.**

**Successful applicants will be provided with an evaluation form to complete, this form must be completed and sent to Kilkenny Arts Officer within one month of project completion.**

**Remember!**

* Please fill in all details. Failure to supply the information requested will result in the **elimination** of the application for consideration.
* Only typed applications or those completed clearly in block capital letters will be considered.
* The inclusion of any additional material must be clearly labelled with your name and contact details.
* Please enclose an s.a.e. for the safe return of your application and / or any materials sent to complement your application if you require it to be returned. If you do not include an s.a.e. we will assume that you do not need the material returned.
* Supporting information and Application Forms are available in large print on request.
* **An independent assessment panel will award funding on a competitive basis; therefore, all applications submitted must be accompanied by documentation/images etc. If you do not provide the relevant documentation/images we will consider your application ineligible.**
* Allow sufficient time for completion and delivery of application before the closing date as no applications will be accepted after the closing date.
* Successful applicants, if not already registered with us, will have to complete the Supplier Set Up form.
* **No electronic applications will be accepted; hard copies only**.

**Arts Act Grant Budget**

**How to complete the budget for your application**

**Groups and organisations** in regards to your proposed event / project please complete in full the income and expenditure sheets overleaf.  Indicate if you have sought or obtained grant(s) from any other agencies, giving the name of the agency and the amount of grant sought/obtained. Also specify if this figure been confirmed?

**Individuals** please give details overleaf of income and expenditure if your application is in respect of a specific event / project / undertaking regarding your practice. If it is in respect to the development of your practise in general please itemise / supply details of how it will be spent.

* **The budget should be for the total cost of the activity you are applying for.**
* **Your income and expenditure pages must balance.**
* **Please show income in kind on both income and expenditure pages or your budget will not balance. (please state what, if any, income is ‘in kind’)**

**Income**

* **Provide information on all sources of income relevant to your proposed activity.**
* **You must contribute at least 20% funding from other sources.**
* **Give a breakdown of all costs, i.e. how you reached each subtotal must be itemised.**

**Expenditure**

* **Give a breakdown of all costs, i.e. how you reached each subtotal including funding in kind.**
* **Itemise the cost of publicising your activity if applicable.**
* **Itemise mail outs, phone calls and administration.**
* **Itemise any journeys associated with your event and give details.**
* **Itemise any items you may need to buy specially to undertake this project.**
* **Itemise how you will evaluate your event and the cost of recording this self-evaluation.**

**Helpful Hints when completing the Arts Act Grant Application Form**

* Before you start filling in the form, read the form from start to finish.
* Make notes and know what documentation is required.
* If you need to get quotes for venues for exhibitions or performances/materials/printed matter (brochures, flyers, posters) etc., get them now and have them got before you start completing the form.
* For visual artists, images of completed work, previous exhibition brochures, etc., should form part of the application.
* When asked for descriptions/purpose etc and the form says no more than half of an A4 page or one side of an A4 page, it means exactly that.
* If you or your organisation has had previous exhibitions/performances, include copies of historic publicity material with your application i.e. brochures, flyers, newspaper articles etc.

**Note**

* Bear in mind that the **independent assessment panel** doesn’t know you or your past work so if you have three or four lines on the form to complete on a particular question, make it matter.
* The **independent assessment panel** will base their decisions on how the content of the application form and the accompanying documentation meets the criteria, so make sure that all questions are answered and that you have all necessary documentation attached when submitting the application.
* Last, but not least, sometimes, when completing forms, a person can get tunnel vision and could miss an important question or forget to attach the right documentation to the application. Get a friend to have a quick look over the form to make sure that it is clear, concise and meets the criteria.