**Artists’ Open Call**

**Commemorations Bursary 2025**

**Guidelines**

**Closing date for applications – 9 June 2025**

Wexford County Council invites applications for an Artist Bursary focused on the themes of commemoration and funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media.

**Commemoration Artists Bursaries 2025**

These artist bursaries will offer the opportunity to support and invest in new work developed by a professional artist in any art forms based in County Wexford.

There are two bursaries for **€4,000** and they will be awarded to artists addressing the broad theme of commemoration. This should be informed by the period of Irish history which was commemorated in the recent Decade of Centenaries Programme (2012-2023) as well as the post-civil war years. Applications are open to artists working in all artforms such as, but not limited to, literature, film, music, drama, visual arts, or artists working in a combination of art forms.

Commemoration 2025 funding aims to support commemorative activities marking the centenaries or other major anniversaries of locally significant historical events and associated themes. As we have seen throughout the Decade of Centenaries, the response to historical events by artists and creative practitioners provides a platform to encourage reflection and the consideration of issues, both past and present, which may be challenging, difficult and sometimes deeply personal.

The aim of these new works is to respond with sensitivity to the historical context of Wexford and promote a deeper understanding of the significant historical events of this period. The work should also encourage reflection today about the multiple identities, traditions and perspectives that are part of the overall Irish historical experience.

Applications are welcomed which focus on any of the themes listed below:

**Community-led commemoration and reflection**; Remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events, and themes that had particular significance for counties and communities in 1925 and in the early years of the State. Exploring local connections with nationally important events and how these events were experienced or received locally.

**Ireland and the Wider World**;Exploring the international dimension, including local connections, emigration, and the role of the Irish Diaspora in the events that occurred during the early years of the State. Exploring how events in Ireland were received and reported abroad.

**Experiences of Women**; Exploring the experiences of women during the early years of the State and their contribution to the events that occurred, including their changing role in society.

**Democracy and Politics**; Exploring the prominent personalities and local issues associated with elections during this period.

**Establishing a New Order**; Exploring the evolution of political and administrative structures at national and local government level; Exploring the establishment and development of the various institutions of the State; Exploring the development of new infrastructure, e.g. transportation, communications, postal services, energy, etc.

**Re-building a Nation**; Reflections on healing, repairing and re-building in the context of the traumatic legacy of the Civil War.

**The partitioning of Ireland**; Exploring the impacts and legacies on communities living along the newly established border and further afield.

**A changing society during the early years of the State**; Exploring the themes below in the context of the early years of the State.

* Popular social, cultural, and civic movements;
* Social class and gender;
* The Irish language;
* Social policies and welfare;
* Education;
* Family life and children in the early years of the State;
* Labour and employment;
* Land and rural life;
* The role of religion and faith;
* The significance of sport in communities;
* Experiences of people in Ireland during this period who would today identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community;
* Experiences of immigration to the Local Authority area, and of minority ethnic groups in Ireland;
* Innovation and developments in the fields of industry, agriculture, science, commerce, health and medicine, communications, technology, recreation.

**Emotions, experiences, and expectations**; Exploring what was felt and what was hoped for following the Civil War and in the developing Irish State.

**Creative thinking and the arts**; Exploring poetry, literature, music, theatre, and other art forms from 1925 and the early years of the State.

**Other significant anniversaries, events and themes**; Exploring other historical events and related themes, and their significance for the local authority area.

Public engagement is an important part of the remit of the Department’s Commemoration programme and artists are asked to consider how they will engage with the public in the presentation of their work in 2025. This could be in the form of a reading, a performance or exhibition or other form of public presentation.

**Terms and conditions**

**Commemoration Bursaries 2025**

* This bursary award is open to professional artists in all art forms, and applications are welcome from artists at all stages of their career. A professional artist is interpreted as a person who is actively pursuing a career as an artist in any art form, and who considers their arts work as their main profession or career. They must hold a relevant degree or Diploma in a relevant discipline or alternatively demonstrate significant achievement in their arts careers.
* Applications are open to artists working in all artforms or a combination of artforms.
* The funding is intended to pay primarily for the artists time and other related costs such as art materials, studio rental, presentation of work.
* Examples of types of work that can be applied for include new writing, new music, readings, music performances, drama, visual art, dance, street arts & circus, sound art, film, multidisciplinary work.
* Artists may choose to collaborate with others on an application - however one artist must submit as lead artist on behalf of the other(s).
* The artist must be residing in County Wexford for a minimum of 1 year.
* A public presentation of new artwork developed for this bursary must take place by November 2025
* Wexford County Council, and the Department reserves the right to publicise the awarding of these bursaries

**Scoring Criteria and marking scheme**

All proposals will be evaluated using the following marking scheme.

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| 1 | Quality of proposal including relevance to the theme of commemoration | 300 |
| 2 | The extent to which the proposed project is ambitious, innovative and fosters creativity. | 200 |
| 3 | Track record of the artist and quality of previous work | 200 |
| 4 | Budget Breakdown | 150 |
| 5 | Feasibility to deliver and complete the project. Applicants must provide a clear plan for delivering the project and timeline. | 150 |
|  | Total | 1000 |

**Selection Process:**

These bursaries will be awarded through a competitive process and considered via an appointed selection panel, and the panel’s decision is final.

**Additional Information**

Wexford County Council will not be in control of the locations where final public outcomes may take place. Therefore, it will be the responsibility of the artist to ensure the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2013 and the Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, (where applicable), are implemented. Additional legislative requirements which may apply to the place of work will also need to be considered by the artist.

Artists who to wish to engage children and young people under eighteen years of age in the proposed activity, event or project must comply with the Children First Act 2015 and the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 to 2016. Please refer to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) , for more information.

Any event organised by, funded by, supported by or held on Wexford County Council property which engages children or young people would be designated a “Not Around Us” supporting event and would display the “Not Around Us” logo and signage in promotion of the event and at the event itself. This will help to make events for children and young people in County Wexford smoke and vape free events.

**Freedom of Information**

Wexford County Council undertakes to our best endeavour to hold confidential any information provided by you in this application subject to the Council’s obligations under law including the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. If you consider that any of the information supplied by you in this application should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, you should, when providing the information, identify the same and specify reasons for its sensitivity.

Wexford County Council will consult with you about this sensitive information before making any decision on any Freedom of Information request received. In the event of a decision to release information provided by you, you will have the option of appealing the decision to the Information Commissioner. Please note that unless information is identified by you as sensitive, with supporting reasons, then it is likely to be released in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Acts.

**How do I apply?**

Complete the application form which is available on the Wexford County Council website <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/arts-and-culture> or by email from [arts@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:arts@wexfordcoco.ie).

Only completed submissions received via the approved application form will be considered. Digital submissions, either on PDF or Word only and emailed to [arts@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:artsoffice@wexfordcoco.ie).

**Supporting Documentation:**

You are required to include supporting material online with your application. Please assume that the selection panel is not familiar with any of your past work. Examples of appropriate supplementary materials may include images, pamphlets, brochures, texts, video links.

* Max of 10 still images (PDF or jpeg only) – clearly labelled.
* Video Show reel (You Tube or Vimeo) max 6 minutes accepted.
* Catalogues, flyers, publications, reviews, writing excerpts accepted.
* Content sheet - clearly listing supporting documentation.

**Application dates:**

* Closing date for receipt of applications: **Monday 9 June 2025**
* Late applications will not be considered.
* Digital applications only: No hard copies accepted.
* Your application should include the following completed:

1. Application Form

2. Supporting Documentation

3. Detailed Proposal (max 1,000 words)

4. Artist’s CV

All compiled into one PDF document. In total this should not exceed 15 MB in size. Please title your email **“Commemoration Artists Bursaries Programme 2025”**

* Please note if you submit your application over 15MB it will not be accepted, and you will not receive a confirmation email.
* **Please email your application to** [**arts@wexfordcoco.ie**](mailto:artsoffice@wexfordcoco.ie) **by 9 June 2025 on or before 4.00pm. All eligible submissions will receive a confirmation email.**
* Incomplete applications will not be considered. No other documentation can be accepted after the closing date.
* If you have any **access issues or general queries** around applying for this scheme, please contact the Arts Office and leave a number and we will be very happy to assist you with your application. Hard copies may be accepted following communication with the Arts Office.
* For further information / queries please contact: **Nicola Giltrap, Arts Office, Tel: 053 –** **919 6441** or **Caroline Barry, Library Tel: 053 – 919 6330** atWexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford.

**How will I know my application has been successful?**

All applicants will be notified by email.

The successful applicant will receive a Letter of Offer. This letter will form the contract between Wexford County Council and the Artist and will detail all conditions and requirements.

The selected applicant will be published on Wexford County Council’s website stating project name and details.

**If I am successful, how do I draw down the funding?**

Payment to the successful applicant will be made by electronic fund transfer only as follows:

A total of 100% of the total fund amount will be paid once the signed Letter of Offer has been returned to Wexford County Council together with any supporting information/documentation requested.

After the project has been completed, the successful applicant must submit a report which contains the following:

* Evidence that the project has been completed (e.g., presentation of public outcome, photographic evidence etc.)
* Evidence of expenditure – Receipts/invoices for full cost
* Summary of project, any change to the project etc.
* Provide at least 5 high quality jpeg images of the project and consent forms for those shown (Wexford County Council reserves the right to use these images for any publicity relating to this scheme)

**Note** – Failure to submit this report will require the applicant to repay the grant to Wexford County Council and will exclude applicants from future grant schemes.

**Acknowledgement**

Once you have been notified that you have been successful in receiving funding, you must ensure that the Department and Wexford County Council is acknowledged as funders of your event and promoted. Appropriate credits, logos, and guidelines to support this will be provided to the awarded artists.

**Disclaimer – please read carefully.**

It will be a condition of any application for funding under the terms and conditions of the Wexford County Council that the applicant has read, understood, and accepted the following:

1. Wexford County Council shall not be liable to the applicant or any other party, in respect of any loss, damage or costs of any nature arising directly or indirectly from:
   1. The application or the subject matter of the application.
   2. The rejection for any reason of any application.
2. Wexford County Council shall not be held responsible or liable, at any time in any circumstances, in relation to any matter whatsoever arising in connection with the administration of activities. In respect of monies provided by Wexford County Council, the council does not undertake the role of ‘Client’ or ‘Employer’ as defined in the Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work Act 2005.
3. By submitting an application, applicants agree to the processing and disclosure of the applicant’s information by Wexford County Council, and to other third parties if required, for Fund administration, reporting, evaluation, and audit purposes. Successful applicants further consent to the disclosure of this information (e.g., name of successful applicant, amount of award, event details, etc.) by these parties in connection with the marketing or promotion of the Fund.  Personal data will be processed only in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Data Protection legislation.