**Creative Wicklow Grant Scheme 2018**

***Guidelines for Applicants***

**Background to the Creative Ireland Programme?**

Creative Ireland is the Government’s Legacy Programme for Ireland 2016 – a five-year initiative, from 2018 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. The Creative Ireland Programme has five key pillars as follows;

1. **Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child** - A key objective of Pillar 1 is that by 2022 every child in Ireland will have access to tuition and participation in art, music, drama and coding.

## Enabling Creativity in Every Community - The primary objective of this pillar is citizen engagement with their County Culture and Creativity Plans.

## Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure - High quality infrastructure is critical for a vibrant arts and culture sector, and investment in this infrastructure underpins social cohesion and supports strong and sustainable economic growth.

## Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production - The long-term objective of this pillar is to elevate the creative industries including: media, architecture, design, digital technology, fashion, food and crafts, fostering innovation in enterprise.

## Unifying our Global Reputation – the Creative Westmeath programme presents an opportunity to showcase the best of Westmeath and develop a positive view of the county internationally. This is an opportunity to work with our existing overseas networks, including town twinning and Westmeath Associations abroad.

For full details on the five pillars see [www.creative.ireland.ie](http://www.creative.ireland.ie).

 Wicklow County Council, in common with local authorities throughout Ireland, is preparing a Culture & Creativity Strategy as part of the implementation of Pillar 2. This Plan is due to be launched in 2018 and sets out how the Creative Ireland programme will be implemented in County Wicklow over a five year period. In support of the implementation of this Plan, and the Creative Ireland Programme as a whole, a grant scheme has been put in place in 2018 to support the engagement of communities in Wicklow.

**Background to the Wicklow Creative Grant scheme 2018**

The key objective of the Wicklow Creative Ireland Grant Scheme 2018 is to nurture creativity and cultural heritage among communities in Wicklow in keeping with the aims of the Creative Ireland programme. Wicklow County Council seeks to support innovative ways to increase engagement between people and cultural heritage. Events, activities and projects that ‘Make a Connection’ in line with the theme of European Year Of Cultural Heritage 2018 are encouraged, as are collaborations between artists and heritage practitioners, and projects that seek to lay the foundations for longer term engagements.

The Fund is being administered by Wicklow County Council, and will be evaluated by the Wicklow County Council Culture Team.

**Who is eligible to apply?**

This fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage and cultural groups, venues and societies. Applications by individuals must be in partnership with a community, cultural or heritage group.

To be eligible for funding, the project/event/initiative must be based in or relate to County Wicklow and take place before December 2018.

**What amounts are available?**

Grants allocated will be between €500 and €2500. The fund is limited and eligible projects will be evaluated on a competitive basis. There is no guarantee of funding for projects which achieve the minimum eligibility criteria.

**Funding Criteria?**

 Grant applications received will be evaluated in respect of the following criteria:

* The extent to which the proposed project/event/initiative is aligned to the Creative Ireland Programme
* The extent to which the proposed project/event/initiative is collaborative and maximises community engagement.
* The extent to which the project is innovative, creative, interesting and likely to make a significant impact in the community.
* The feasibility and viability of project completion within the timeframe and budget allocated.
* The capacity of the applicant to deliver the project and to promote it in media as relevant must be demonstrated.

**How do I apply?**

You should apply directly to Wicklow County Council Cultural Team. Only completed submissions received via the approved application form will be considered.

Applications and accompanying additional documentation **by post to**: Wicklow Creative Ireland Grant Scheme 2018, Community Social & Cultural Development Section, Wicklow County Council,

County Buildings, Wicklow Town. A signed version of the application form may be scanned and **e mailed** to creativewicklow@wicklowcoco.ie. Accompanying additional documentation can be included as appropriate.

Applications must be received by **5.00 pm Thursday 31st May 2018.**  Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**If successful, how is the fund to be drawn down?**

Payment will be made following completion of the project/event/initiative. In order to receive payment the applicant must complete a short **Project Report Form** (to be supplied by Wicklow County Council) and provide the following:

* Evidence that the event has taken place (e.g. photographic and/or videographic evidence)
* Receipts for the full costs of the project
* Copies of all press and media coverage

Note: Payment must be made to community group and not to individual(s)

**What items and expenses are excluded from the fund?**

* Spend on alcoholic beverages*,*fines, penalty payments, legal cost, audit fees or general overheads (e.g rent, utility bills).
* Expenditure which was incurred prior to the approval of grant aid.

**What typical projects/events are included in the fund?**

* Projects and events that relate to the five pillars of Creative Ireland
* Creative workshops/ projects/events for people of all ages based on art or heritage.
* Cultural archive projects, e.g photographic collections and/or oral histories of people and place, digitisation of records for contribution to Wicklow’s Community Heritage website, [www.countywicklowheritage.org](http://www.countywicklowheritage.org)
* Pop up shops, museums and exhibitions
* Projects that showcase stories of Wicklow’s culture and those which reveal geographic and thematic connections with cultural heritage elsewhere in Wicklow, Ireland and/or internationally.

**Acknowledgement**

Once you have been notified that you have been successful in receiving funding, you must ensure that your event/ project is promoted as part of this initiative and appropriate guidelines to support this will be included in your letter of offer. Please note that Wicklow County Council and Creative Ireland logos/ acknowledgement must feature on all publicity, press and marketing material produced in connection with grant aided projects.

**Disclaimer – please read carefully**

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

1. Wicklow 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. Wicklow 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 Wicklow 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 Wicklow County Council, and to other third parties if required, for Fund administration, reporting, evaluation and audit purposes; and 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.