



CULTURE NIGHT



CULTURE NIGHT SLIGO FUNDING INFORMATION SHEET

In 2025, Sligo County Council will seek to present a multi-disciplinary programme that includes a number of flagship & featured Culture Night events. These events will be of a larger scale or provide collaborative opportunities for creative practitioners to engage with the public or communities of interest.

The Culture Night programme will also support smaller scale cultural events and activities, gatherings in community & public spaces, in towns and villages, in urban and rural settings throughout the county which celebrate our culture, are inclusive and free to all.

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

Up to 3 flagship Culture Night Events of scale, which amplify Sligo's existing cultural infrastructure may be supported (max €2,500 per project). Flagships events are events that:

- Amplify the existing cultural infrastructure (arts & cultural venues/ libraries/ festivals/galleries/ artist workspaces/ heritage sites/ public spaces)
- Events specifically developed for Culture Night 2025
- Involve professional programmers/producers/curators
- Engage professional practitioners
- Deemed to be of a high artistic/cultural standard
- Are inclusive AND accessible
- Have the capacity to engage with a large number of people over the course of the evening (300+)

FEATURED EVENTS

Up to 5 featured events will be awarded a maximum of €1,000 each. Featured events are events that:

- Are collaborative in nature (artists/practitioners working with communities/the public) or have a participatory/engagement element attached to them
- Are specifically developed for Culture Night 2025
- Deemed to be of a high artistic/cultural standard
- Are inclusive, accessible
- Have the capacity to engage with a number of people over the course of the evening (100 +)

CULTURE WIDE

We are also seeking to support a wider programme of events and activities in Sligo town and which extend out into the county. As part of this, we are especially interested in hearing from

rural artists/groups/communities who wish to present Culture Night events in their own local communities and/or first-time applicants.

A number of smaller awards will be made to support this wider Culture Night (Culture wide) programme. The maximum amount of available funding under this programme strand is €500 - €700, Applicants can apply for smaller amounts.

Culture Night Applications:

- Events must take place after 4pm on the 19th of September 2025
- Events must be free and accessible to the public.
- Events must have a cultural focus.
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment and capacity to deliver safe and controlled events.
- Proposals must be feasible from an artistic/cultural and event management perspective.
- Where relevant, applicants must demonstrate their interest in and ability to engage target audiences.
- Applicants must demonstrate that professional artists employed will be supported in their work and remunerated fairly.
- Where required applicants must provide public liability insurance and be able to provide an indemnity to Sligo County Council.
- Applicants are required to ensure that if any part of the proposed event/activity is to take place on Sligo County Council controlled property or in a public space controlled by Sligo County Council, to demonstrate that provisional approval has been given from the relevant Municipal District Office. This is to ensure that notice of planned events taking place on Council controlled areas complies with safety and event management requirements.
- Sligo County Council funding policy requires that any organisation seeking funding, whose activities involve children to submit a copy or link to their current child safeguarding policy along with their completed application. Failure to do so may render the application invalid.

Eligible & ineligible Costs:

Funding can cover costs related to running of the event such as guest speaker fees, guest artist fees *, arts materials, and technical support hire. Payments are for specific activities outlined in the application.

*All professional artists must be paid in line with the [Art Council's policy for fair pay for artists.](#)

The following costs are not eligible for funding:

- Salaries or *staffing costs
- Equipment purchase or capital costs
- Fundraising activities or debt repayment
- Hospitality, including food, refreshments or alcohol*
- Venue hire, travel, or accommodation
- Marketing, publicity, or print costs

- Events or exhibitions taking place outside of Culture Night 2025
- Any costs intended to generate personal or organisational profit

We encourage applicants to consider accessibility needs in their planning. This could include venue access, inclusive formats, ISL interpretation, or sensory-friendly elements.

Proof of expenditure may include scanned receipts, digital invoices, or other documentation of costs incurred. Original paper copies are not required unless requested. Please ensure all files are clear and legible.

Creative businesses are welcome to apply, provided the proposed event is free, non-commercial, and clearly focused on cultural engagement

**Staffing costs may be considered where directly linked to the delivery of the event (e.g. extended opening hours, technical or event support roles)*

**A small portion of the budget (up to 10%) may be allocated to light refreshments where it directly supports community engagement or inclusive participation (e.g. intergenerational, intercultural or rural gatherings).*

Funding is not available for events already funded by Sligo County Council. The grant will only be paid after the event has taken place, and on receipt of a report on the event and receipts for all expenditure. Report forms will be provided to selected applicants.

Please note:

Funding is at the discretion of Sligo County Council, applying for funding does not guarantee that your event will be funded.

A Culture Night Event grant is intended to support the running of events but may not cover all the associated costs. You are therefore encouraged to also look to other sources of funding to support your event.

We expect that the fund will be over-subscribed. Events that do not require/receive funding are welcome as part of the Culture Night 2025 programme. The opportunity to have your Culture Night event listed on www.culturenight.ie will be advertised by Sligo County Council Arts Service at a later date.

If you are bringing in an artist to work with you on this project or to engage with the community you represent you are responsible for paying the artist and including their fee in your budget outline.

You are responsible for securing your venues (Sligo County Council Arts Service is not).

You are responsible for providing information to the Arts Service to be included in the brochure, it is your responsibility that all the information YOU provide is up to date with venue time and details all correct. We will email you the date deadlines and it is your responsibility to meet those dates.

We will support a number of events that are seeking financial assistance, subject to funding, where they meet the objectives and where proposals are feasible within the Culture Night budget.

Sligo County Council Arts Service Department will co-ordinate the Culture Night County Sligo programme, promoting events, and providing marketing materials/supports to organisations

How to Apply

Please download the Application form from www.sligoarts.ie and complete. You should submit a single PDF containing the form and any supporting documentation, which should at least include:

- Detailed description of Event
- Details/biographies of lead artists, creatives etc
- Venue Information (where relevant)
- Additional budgetary information (Flagship events only)
- Child Protection Policy (family/child focussed events)

Completed applications will ONLY be accepted via email to:

artsoffice@sligococo.ie

Subject Line Culture Night 25

Closing Date: Monday 16th June 2025

Assessment of Applications:

The assessment process will consider all relevant information provided. It is important that information is presented clearly and concisely and that you demonstrate how the application meets the funding aims and objectives as set out above.

Application Procedure and Deadline:

- The deadline for submission of proposals to the Culture Night programme 2025 is **Monday 16th June 2025**. Late applications will not be considered.
- We recommend you include supporting materials in your application this may include examples of previous work, letters of support from collaborators, or a further budget breakdown.
- We strongly advise making the application ahead of the deadline to avoid any difficulties with uploading times
- Keep a copy of all material submitted
- Your application will be acknowledged via email within 3 days

Notification of Decision:

Applicants will be notified of the decision in early July. Please also note that detailed proof of expenditure and documentation must be submitted in order to draw down Culture Night funding. Reporting and draw down must be completed by 31 October 2025.

Freedom of Information:

Sligo County Council undertakes to use its best endeavours to hold confidential any information provided by applicants subject to its obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Applicants are requested to consider if any of the information supplied should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity. If this is the case, candidates should, when providing the information, identify same and specify the reasons for its sensitivity. If such information is not identified as sensitive and Sligo County Council on consideration does not deem it sensitive, then such information is liable to be released in response to a Freedom of Information request without further consultation with the applicants. Sligo County Council will consult with any candidates about sensitive information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information Act request received.



Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

Sligo.

