



An Chomhairle Ealaíon / The Arts Council

Visual Artists' Workspace Scheme 2011

Guidelines for applicants

Visual Artists Ireland, on behalf of the Arts Council, invites applications for grants of up to a maximum of €30,000 towards the cost of running visual artists' workspaces for 2011. This is a new grant scheme, open to all visual artists' workspaces in Ireland (except those currently in receipt of funding under RFO, Annual Funding or Annual Programming Grants of the Arts Council*). The launch of the scheme is on foot of a commitment outlined in the Arts Council's recent policy document 'Visual Artists' Workspaces in Ireland - A New Approach' (see <http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/publications/policy.aspx>).

The scheme is administered by Visual Artists Ireland on behalf of the Arts Council.

How much will be awarded?

A total fund of €250,000 is available for the scheme in 2011. Grants of up to €30,000 will be made.

Purpose of the scheme

- To enable visual artists' workspaces and studios to provide the best possible environment for working artists
- Where feasible, to enable increased subsidy for resident artists

Who may apply

- Applications from groups/collectives of visual artists and/or workspace providers
- The scheme is open to workspaces/studios that accommodate **at least four visual artists** working on site.
- Groups that are planning to establish a space or develop capabilities and appropriate structures

Who cannot apply

- Individual artists
- Organisations currently in receipt of Arts Council funding under RFO, Annual Funding or Annual Programme Grants, (*unless specifically advised in your letter of grant offer for 2010)

- Groups with less than four working artists on site

Essential Information and conditions of funding

- The amount that may be applied for is up to €30,000. Applications for amounts greater than this will be considered ineligible.
- Grants received through this scheme may only be used towards the running costs of the space or supports provided directly to visual artists.
- Capital costs cannot be applied for under this funding scheme
- Funding is not available for public programmes such as exhibitions/events under this funding scheme
- Funding through this grant scheme does not exclude you from applying for a visual arts project award towards public programming
- An element of support towards professional development programmes for member artists can be applied for under this scheme although this should not be the primary focus of the application (these may include exchanges, residencies, training programmes)
- Funding will not be offered retrospectively, i.e. in respect of expenditure to be commenced or undertaken prior to January 2011
- One application only per organisation/group will be accepted
- A list of studio members must be supplied by the applicant
- A health and safety statement must be in place that complies with legal and statutory requirements
- A Child Protection policy must be in place if your organisation works with children
- All grants are offered subject to the availability of funds
- Successful applicants must acknowledge the support of the Arts Council

Assessment

Applications for funding will be assessed on a competitive basis according to the criteria outlined below. All applications are assessed in the context of other applications and available resources. The Council will use its judgement in determining how best to prioritise the use of available funding. Assessment of applications will be undertaken by a panel which includes at least two external assessors with relevant visual arts expertise and a representative from the Arts Council.

Assessment Criteria

Priority will be given to workspaces that demonstrate the following:

- Studio members are professional visual artists
- Studio members are actively partaking in exhibitions, programming and projects

- Evidence of appropriate non-financial supports for visual artists
- Evidence of the need for this specific provision in the locality/region
- Evidence of funding gained from other sources
- A governance structure appropriate to the management of the workspaces i.e. skills based committee or board structure

In addition, applicants must demonstrate:

- The extent to which the proposed grant is needed to assist the organisation in realising its stated objectives.
- Demonstration of unique potential or a track record in the provision of workspace for visual artists

Applications will be considered ineligible if:

- you do not meet the criteria for this scheme
- you do not complete the application form as requested e.g. if your application is late or incomplete
- you are requesting funding for activities that will commence before January 2011

General tips

- Plan your application well in advance
- Read all questions thoroughly before you answer them
- Remember that several people will be involved in the decision-making process so make your application clear, concise, unambiguous and easy to handle
- Be selective with material submitted. Remember that you are trying to persuade assessors why your proposal should be funded
- Have a clear and realistic idea of what you want and how much your proposal costs
- Get someone else to look over the proposal before you send it in
- Keep a copy of the application for reference

Deadline for applications

Applications, to be completed on the attached application form in **hard copy** and electronic format (Word format) must be received **no later than 5.30pm on Thursday 9th September 2010** at:

Visual Artists' Workspace Scheme 2011
 Visual Artists Ireland
 37 North Great Georges Street
 Dublin 1

Email: info@visualartists.ie

Applications received after this time will be deemed ineligible.