

Spring 2022

Meath Arts Office Newsletter



Welcome to the Meath County Council Arts Office Spring newsletter.

It is hard to believe that it is March already and a much welcomed sense of hope fills the fresh Spring air. Hope of better times to come. To accompany this season of purposeful growth and renewal, the Arts Office is delighted to announce the launch of its Spring 2022 Funding Cycle which sees the commencement of five individual grant and bursary competitions: The Annual Arts Grant, the Community Arts Grant, the Festivals Grant Scheme, the Drama League of Ireland Bursary and The Professional Artists Development Fund. We are also delighted to announce that we will be participating in Platform31 once again in 2022. This initiative is a collaboration between the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers and the Arts Council and is a national opportunity for artists to develop their practice and test new ideas.

This group of funding opportunities form part of a larger suite of artists supports administered through the Arts Office. Supports which this year have been strengthened by additional funding received from the Arts Council of Ireland and Creative Ireland. The Spring Funding Cycle aims to cover a wide range of disciplines, arts practices and activities.

The Meath Arts Office entire application process is now online and we invite applicants to complete forms electronically and submit applications and support materials digitally.

Information on open schemes and the online application process can be found [here](#). The deadline for receipt of applications is 1pm on Wednesday 6th April 2022. Good luck, we look forward to supporting your arts practice!

Gerardette Bailey, County Arts Officer

SPOTLIGHT ON PUBLIC ART : **Equilibrium by Orla de Brí**



Equilibrium, by renowned Meath-based sculptor Orla de Brí, is a Bronze and stone sculpture located at Dunshaughlin Civic Offices measuring 2.7 metres by 3.4 meters. Working from her Meath-studio, Orla de Brí is very much a hands-on sculptor, enjoying every aspect of the work, from the concept of the first drawing through to the varied and sometimes challenging physical processes. Her unique, elegantly stylised figures and objects, in a variety of materials, including bronze, steel, stone and fibreglass are familiar to many.

De Brí has had seven major solo shows and has completed 26 site-specific, large-scale public sculptures in Ireland, London and Istanbul. Be sure to keep an eye out for this exquisite piece of sculpture when visiting Dunshaughlin.

Meath County Council Arts Office Funding Opportunities



Meath County Council Arts Office is pleased to announce the launch of the Arts Act Funding - Spring Funding Cycle 2022.

The application system is now online and will be issued, received and accepted through **electronic means only**.

Information on the schemes and new application process can be found [here](#).

Applicants must email artsfunding@meathcoco.ie to request their desired application form(s).

DEADLINE: 1pm, Wednesday 6th April 2022.



Annual Arts Grants Scheme

This award is intended to support **organisations, groups or individuals** in the provision of **local arts activities** which **enhance long-term development and sustainability** of the arts in County Meath.



Community Arts Grant

This award is intended to support **community groups** and **schools** in the provision of **community arts projects** which **promote engagement** and **enhance long-term partnerships** with professional artists.



Festival Grant Scheme

This award is intended to support **arts festivals** taking place in County Meath which show a commitment to **quality artistic programming**.



Drama League of Ireland Bursary

This bursary is intended to fund a **week-log residential stay** at the **Drama League of Ireland Summer School** at the University of Limerick. The residency is open to directors, designers and actors working in theatre, living in County Meath.



Professional Artist Development Fund

This award is intended to support Meath based **professional arts practitioners** in the development of their **artistic practice** and/or the **development of new work**.

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL GRANTS: 1.00p.m, Wednesday, 6th April 2022.

Please note applications must be made through a new online application system. Please allow sufficient time to familiarise yourself with the new online system before the deadline, as late applications will not be assessed.

Meath County Council Arts Office announces its participation in PLATFORM31

Following on from its successful pilot in 2020-21, the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers (ALAAO) is once more collaborating with the Arts Council to present PLATFORM 31 – a national opportunity for artists to be supported to investigate how they might develop their practice or make work in a different way.

Designed to support and enable career development for 31 mid-career artists - one artist will be selected from each of the 31 local authorities around Ireland - there are two elements of support for participating artists in this pilot scheme: financial and developmental.

Participating artists will receive an €8,000 bursary to invest in themselves and their practice, combined with participation in a developmental programme.

Informed by last year's pilot, the PLATFORM 31 developmental programme will provide coaching, advisory support and networking opportunities for participating artists, introducing them to a pool of critical thinkers to share their work and encouraging a national conversation about creating work in local contexts.

Applications open from March 3rd to March 30th 2022.

Mid-career artists of all disciplines from County Meath are invited to visit <https://platform31.localartsireland.ie/> for further information and to make an application or email localartsireland@gmail.com

Former MCC Writer in Residence Oisín McGann was selected to represent Meath in the Platform 31 initiative in 2021.

Oisín McGann is an Irish writer and illustrator. He writes in a range of genres for children and teenagers, mainly science fiction and fantasy, and has illustrated many of his own short story books for younger readers.

PLATFORM 31 is managed by Wicklow County Council on behalf of The Association of Local Authority Arts Officers, in collaboration with the Arts Council.



2021 Meath Platform31 Awardee -
Oisín McGann





OUTRAGE, Image by Leo Byrne & Publicis

Meath County Council Arts Office is delighted to welcome Fishamble Theatre Company to Meath with the world premiere of *OUTRAGE* by award winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan. Commissioned by Meath Arts Office & produced by Fishamble *OUTRAGE* is a theatrical hurricane of empathy, action and truth live in Kells Courthouse from Thursday 17 March.

Following the story of two sisters, *OUTRAGE* is a play that explores the true nature of women's role in the Irish revolutionary wars and in particular the Civil War in 1922.

Alice and Nell play key roles in organising civic resistance and the propaganda war. They are fervent, they are funny, they are human and they - like everyone else in Ireland - become deeply conflicted as the country spins toward a shattering Civil clash that split the nation, and continues to haunt Irish politics, society and culture to this day.

OUTRAGE, by Deirdre Kinahan, commissioned by Meath Arts Office, produced by Fishamble and directed by Jim Culleton will premiere during St Patrick's Festival in the Kells Courthouse and Pumphouse in Dublin Port. This production follows Fishamble's other recent work during the Decade of Centenaries – *Inside the GPO* in 2016, *Embargo* in 2020, and *The Treaty* in 2021. Performed by Caitríona Ennis, Mary Murray & Naoise Dunbar with design team of Maree Kearns, Kevin Smith, Carl Kennedy & Catherine Fay.

Supported by the Arts Council, Dublin Port Company, and **Meath Arts Office** with assistance from the DTCAGSM under the Decade of Centenaries 2012 - 2023 initiative and Meath LLPPS3. The performance on the 18th will be followed by a post-show discussion with Playwright Deirdre Kinahan, Director Jim Culleton & County Arts Officer Gerardette Bailey (8.45 – 9.30pm)

Where: Kells Courthouse

When: Thursday 17 March, 7.30pm ; Friday 18 March 7.30pm, Saturday 19 March 2pm & 7.30pm

Tickets available: The Bookmarket Café Kells & online at <https://www.fishamble.com/outragebooking.html>

Duration: 75 minutes, no interval

Age guidance: 14+

Content Warning: Includes descriptions of violence and sexual assault

More info: [fishamble.com/outrage](https://www.fishamble.com/outrage)

In Case You Missed it.....

HARK! A Kell's Christmas Carol produced by **Sofft Productions** in association with **Meath Arts Office** and presented under the DTCAGSM Local Live Performance Programming Scheme 2 took place in **Kells Theatre (St Vincent de Paul Hall), Kells, Co. Meath on Saturday, 18th December 2021.** The show kicked off at 8PM with patrons welcomed by **Kells Silver Band.**



This **Meath Arts** initiative provided a platform for **Meath Artists to showcase** their work to a live concert audience. MC for the evening, Comedian **Fred Cooke** delivered a unique brand of comedy through his musical prowess, physical storytelling and warm, affable stage presence.

HARK! Welcomed traditional music legend **Paddy Keenan**, hailing from one of the most influential bands of the 1970s, **The Bothy Band.** **The Bothy Band** forever changed the face of Irish traditional music, merging a driving rhythm section with traditional Irish tunes in ways that had never been heard before. Since then, Paddy pursued a **solo career**, bringing traditional music to audiences globally across Japan, Europe, Australia, and North America.

Paddy Smith Band then performed with **Jeanne McGovern**, whether he's performing blues standards or his own original material that's informed by his experiences, Paddy Smith blew the blues.

Joining the stage was singer-songwriter **Robert John Ardiff**, best known for his work in The Choice Music Prize nominated band Come On Live Long. His solo music has had millions of streams on Spotify and has featured on the Amazon original TV series, Modern Love. Robert John Ardiff's **HARK!** Live performance of *Miles Away* is available to view [here](#) and *Black Dog* available to view [here](#).

Celtic Tenor **Matthew Gilsenan** performed with renowned vocalist **Deirdre Shannon.** **Matthew** was born and raised in Co. Meath, commandeered from the age of 7 to sing solo at many larger parish occasions and it went from there. Readoiri, Scor na nOg, and later feis ceoil were staples for Matthew where he won many National accolades. Matt studied engineering at UCD, but also, in the evenings, studied singing at the College of Music at Chatham row and Adelaide road. Matt engineered for 5 years or so but then got an opportunity to create the Celtic Tenors with two colleagues.

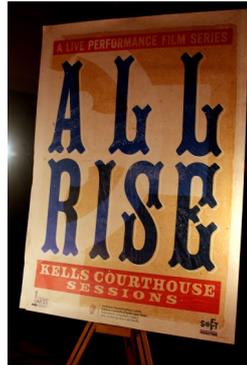
Deirdre has one of the purest voices around which is evident whether she is singing a traditional Irish song or something classical. She was invited to join the big box office hit **Celtic Woman.** Deirdre toured the USA as soloist in the successful show and it was here Deirdre earned both a gold and platinum disc from EMI Manhattan.



Ireland's favourite circus also came to town - **Circus Gerbola** the unique, diverse and entertaining show that combines traditional circus with ultra modern lighting, dancing, and special effects, locally based in Navan. **The Gerbola family** specialises in clowning and goes back eight generations.

Award-winning playwright and a member of Aosdána, Ireland's elected body of outstanding artists, **Deirdre Kinahan** performed a written piece that tells a story that celebrates music and gathering, accompanied by a string section. Deirdre is an Associate Artist with Meath County Council Arts Office. Her plays are translated into many languages, published by **Nick Hern Books** and produced regularly in Ireland and on the international stage.

Film lovers also enjoyed a 15-minute film premier of **All Rise**: A musical short film shot on site in Kells historic courthouse showcasing music acts from Meath with support under the **Meath LLPPS 2**.



All Rise: The Kells Courthouse Sessions

Filmed in association with Meath Arts Office and Sofft Productions, **All Rise; The Courthouse Sessions** was part of the Meath LLPPS 2 scheme and premiered on the Hot Press YouTube channel on 18 December 2021.

All Rise: The Kells Courthouse Sessions is a celebration of musicians, artists and the magic of the creative space. Shot on location at Kells Courthouse; a cultural hub in the heart of Co. Meath, is a three part series featuring both Meath legends like Paddy Keenan and Jimmy Smyth to up and coming talent like Paper Clap Sound and Kollektive.

Episode 1 in a series of three All Rise sessions included memorable performances by ace uilleann piper Paddy Keenan, who originally came to prominence with The Bothy Band; Kollektive; Deirdre Kinahan; Jimmy Smyth with Karrie O'Sullivan, among others and is available to view [here](#) .

Episode 2 once again provided a platform for Meath artists to showcase and document new work in the historic setting of Kells Courthouse – with appearances from Deirdre Kinahan, Atelica, Tommy Keyes, IF and JJ Bloom and is available to view [here](#) .

Episode 3 includes performances from self-taught musician Gerry Tully; Meath Hip Hop duo Paper Clap Sound with Blaithín O'Connor; bluegrass and folk influenced band Pilgrim St.; jazz swing band Bobby MC & The Dukes – plus singer-songwriter Kyle Riley. Award-winning playwright and elected member of Aosdána Deirdre Kinahan once again took the reins as host for the series. Episode 3 available to view [here](#) .



Congratulations to Meath Musician Maria Butterly on New Single Release



Congratulations to Meath Musician Maria Butterly, on the launch of her new single entitled 'HERO' produced by Bill Shanley and recorded in the world famous Windmill Lane Recording Studios. Launched 11th February, the song deals with the subject of bullying. Further details available at www.mariabutterly.com

CRAFTING EUROPE - Research Survey



The European funded project **CRAFTING EUROPE** aims to improve the situation of craftspeople in Europe. Therefore, it is conducting a study to get a real picture on the crafts sector, its challenges and needs.

The sector has great potential for further economic growth and job creation. However, it suffers from a lack of evidence and influence. Further research is needed to better understand the state of the craft industry in Europe and influence future policy in this area.

Practicing artists/ design or crafts groups are invited to complete this short survey at: <https://forms.gle/xwD9Ydqu22wzKhiJA>

West Wicklow Chamber Festival - Composition Competition 2022



West Wicklow Chamber Festival are delighted to announce details of their Composition Competition 2022 for emerging composers. Competition entrants are invited to submit a piece of between circa 3-5 minutes duration for clarinet and piano.

Entry is free and open to all composers currently based on the island of Ireland or holding Irish citizenship.

Further details available at <https://www.westwicklowfestival.com/news/composition-comp-2022>

The closing date for entries is Wednesday 16th March 2022

SCRIPTS, Ireland's Playwriting Festival is seeking new works for the stage



Scripts, Ireland's Playwriting Festival is seeking new plays to inspire and incite. The theme for 2022 is **ESCAPE**.

Whether it's finding sweet escape or clawing fingernails to avert imminent danger, what does it mean to break free from confinement or control?

Circumstances, relationships, mask restrictions, jobs, judgement, relentless worry, fear - what do you want to escape from? We're looking for characters with the pressure cooker turned up, actively making a change to their lives.

From the minute to the immense, can you take on this theme and write an affecting 15-minute contemporary drama?

Taking place in Birr, Co Offaly from 14-17 July, Scripts creates unique opportunities for playwrights to have their work developed and produced.

Three scripts most suited for development will be selected through a rigorous shortlisting process.

These selected playwrights then receive a week of mentoring and script development under the guidance of Playwright and Screenwriter **Eugene O'Brien**, where the whole process of writing and rewriting is explored in a collaborative supportive environment.

The festival supports three playwrights with a team of artists to mentor, develop and produce the emerging scripts for a rehearsed reading, directed by Jim Culleton of Fishamble. Industry professionals then judge the final versions and a winner is selected.

Playwrights (both established and emerging) are invited to submit original 15-minute plays on the theme **"ESCAPE."**

Deadline for submissions is **Monday 14 March 2022, 5pm.**

For more details: visit www.scriptsireland.com

SCRIPTS is supported by Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Jasango Theatre, Offaly County Council, Arts Council of Ireland and Offaly Local Development Company.

Cork City Council - Assistant Arts Officer - Community Arts (Grade V)



Cork County Council invite from suitably qualified persons for inclusion on a panel from which appointments may be made to the position of ASSISTANT ARTS OFFICER - COMMUNITY ARTS (GRADE V).

Application form and full details can be downloaded from www.corkcity.ie/recruitment

Queries relating to this post should be addressed to recruitment@corkcity.ie

The closing date for receipt of completed applications for this position is **4.00pm on Friday, 11th March 2022.**

In accordance with Departmental Circular Letter EL 02/2011, a person who is not a serving local authority employee on or after 1st January 2011, will enter the scale at the minimum point.

Applicants may be shortlisted on the basis of the information supplied on the application form.
Canvassing will automatically disqualify. Cork City Council is an equal opportunities employer.

See Change—Arts and Disability: Consultancy Opportunity



Mayo County Council Arts Service seeks to engage the services of a suitably qualified and experienced individual or organisation to undertake an arts and disability consultancy on a contract for services basis.

Clare Arts Office and Galway City Council Arts Office are partners in the project which was awarded funding under the Arts Council's An Invitation to Collaboration Scheme 2021.

Full Brief available here ['See Change' Consultant - Contract for Services \(mayo.ie\)](http://www.mayo.ie)

Deadline: 6 April 2022 at 4pm

The Arts Council Funding Opportunities



The Arts Council are currently accepting applications for funding under the below scheme.

[Writers in Schools Scheme](#)

Operated by Poetry Ireland this scheme is co-funded by the Arts Council but administered by Poetry Ireland.

The Writers in Schools Scheme part-funds visits by writers and storytellers to schools throughout the island of Ireland.

For more information, please refer to the education section of the Poetry Ireland website, www.poetryireland.ie or <https://www.artscouncil.ie/funds/Writers-in-schools-scheme/>

[Arts Grant Funding](#)

Arts Grant Funding will be awarded to organisations and individuals to carry out a series of activities taking place from either January – December 2023, or January 2023 – December 2024.

Maximum award: Unlimited

Application deadline: 10 March 2022 at 17:30

Further details available at <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Arts-Grant-Funding/>

[Arts Participation Project Award](#)

The award supports specific projects in the field of Arts Participation commencing on or after 1 July 2022.

Maximum award: €60,000

Application deadline: 24 March 2022 at 17:30 Further details available at <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Arts-participation-project-Award/>

[Circus Project Award](#)

The award supports specific projects in the field of Circus commencing on or after 1 July 2022.

Maximum award: €50,000

Application deadline: 24 March 2022 at 17:30 Further details available at <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Circus-project-award/>

[Dance Project Award](#)

This award supports projects in the field of Dance commencing on or after 1 July 2022.

Application deadline: 24 March 2022 at 17:30 Further details available at

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Dance-project-award/>

[Film Project Award](#)

This award supports projects in the field of film commencing on or after 1 July 2022.

Application deadline: 24 March 2022 at 17:30 Further details available at

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/film-project-award/>

The Arts Council Funding Opportunities Continued

[Street Arts & Spectacle Project Award](#)

This award supports specific projects in the field of Street Arts and Spectacle commencing on or after 1 July 2022. .

Application deadline: 24 March 2022 at 17:30 Further details available at

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Street-Arts-and-Spectacle-Project-Award/>

[Theatre Project Award](#)

The award supports specific projects in the field of Theatre commencing on or after 1 July 2022.

Application deadline: 24 March 2022 at 17:30 Further details available at

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Theatre-Project-Award/>

[Traditional Arts Project Award](#)

The award supports specific projects in the field of Traditional Arts commencing on or after 1 July 2022.

Application deadline: 24 March 2022 at 17:30 Further details available at

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Traditional-Arts-Project-Award/>

[Visual Arts Project Award](#)

The award supports specific projects in the field of Visual Arts commencing on or after 1 July 2022.

Application deadline: 24 March 2022 at 17:30 Further details available at

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Visual-Arts-Project-Award/>

[International Residency Initiative Scheme](#)

The purpose of the scheme is to support art organisations in the delivery of residency initiatives and to create opportunities for transnational exchange and cooperation across all art forms.

Maximum award: €50,000

Application deadline: 7 April 2022 at 17:30 Further details available at <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/International-Residency-Initiatives-Scheme/>

SUBMIT A LISTING



Are you an arts professional?

Do you have an upcoming exhibition, show or event?

Are you delivering online talks or workshops?

If you would like to submit a listing for inclusion in our newsletter, please send details and an image for consideration to: artsoffice@meathcoco.ie with **LISTING** in the subject bar.