

## Creative Ageing Writing Bursary 2022

### Deadline: 5pm, Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2022

#### Information for applicants

Age & Opportunity believes that the arts is particularly important and beneficial as we age, and has long been a supporter of older artists.

The Bealtaine Festival is 27 years old in 2022 and is Ireland's only festival dedicated to celebrating the arts and creativity as we age. Part of our work involves supporting the participation and representation of older people in the arts, including honouring and giving a platform to older artists. Similarly, we have a significant history in developing professional development training for artists across generations, as well as supporting arts networks and best practice through partnerships with Dance Ireland, Visual Artists Ireland, Irish Theatre Institute, Irish Writers Centre and more.

#### Creative Ageing Writing Bursary

Launched in 2021, the Age & Opportunity Creative Ageing Writing Bursary aims to generate discussion, debate and knowledge about creative ageing (the arts

and older people/ageing) in Ireland. The essay/reflection is intended to be useful for people who work with or are thinking of working with older people (including older artists).

The inaugural bursary was awarded to Dublin-based theatre-maker, playwright, and performer, Michelle Read. [You can read her essay here.](#)

**One award of €1000 will be made to the successful applicant.**

## Award Aim

The bursary is intended to afford time and space for either:

- An artist/writer to reflect on their practice as they have aged - the learnings, insights but also challenges they have faced;
- An artist/writer/arts facilitator who has a lot of experience of working with older people and wishes to reflect on their learnings and insights over the years.

## Call for Applications

### Application Process:

Those wishing to apply for the Creative Ageing Bursary should complete the application form, as well as sending a short biography or CV and a sample of work. Applicants whose primary practice is not in writing are asked to provide samples of their work **and** a sample of writing no more than 3 pages long.

## Eligibility Criteria:

The Age & Opportunity Creative Ageing Writing Bursary will be offered to:

- a professional artist\* working in any artform;
- a professional arts facilitator working in any artform;
- an arts writer working in any artform.

Applicants should be based in the Republic of Ireland.

Consideration will also be given to artists/writers of 50+ who are early on in their career and wish to reflect on their new journey as an artist, as well as younger artists who may have significant experience of working with older people.

\* While there is no one definition of a professional artist, we would suggest that it relates to someone who is either making a living from or attempting to make a living from their work, and/or who is a member of a professional representative body such as: Visual Artists Ireland, Film Director's Ireland, Association of Irish Composers etc.).

## Selection Criteria:

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Track record of the artist/writer/facilitator;
- Contribution to knowledge around creative ageing in Ireland;
- Feasibility of proposal;
- Quality of supporting material.

Applications should be submitted to the Arts Administrator, Eva Griffin [arts@ageandopportunity.ie](mailto:arts@ageandopportunity.ie) no later than **5pm, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.**

We aim to communicate final decisions by mid April 2022. Should a large volume of applicants be received, this timeline may be adjusted to provide additional time to review all applications. All applicants will be kept notified of any changes or updates.

## Conditions of the Award

Age & Opportunity invites applications from eligible artists/writers whereby the following conditions will apply:

- First draft should be delivered by Friday 8th July 2022;
- Final draft should be delivered by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022;
- Writer agrees to publishing of work on the Age & Opportunity website and through other public means;
- Writer agrees to credit Age & Opportunity when promoting or publicising the resulting essay;
- Written work should not exceed 1300 words.

## Equality, Human Rights, and Diversity

Please note that Age & Opportunity welcomes applications from all communities, and particularly encourages artists from underrepresented communities to apply.

In line with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, and in line with our core funders, Age & Opportunity is committed to ensuring that it takes positive policy measures and commitments to promote equality of opportunity for all those living in Ireland, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community. Furthermore, Age & Opportunity notes the ground of

socioeconomic background as a further basis for which equality of opportunity must be guaranteed.

As such, Age & Opportunity is committed to increasing the diversity and inclusion of our work.

## More Information

### Age & Opportunity

Age & Opportunity is the national organisation that provides a range of opportunities for older people who want to get more involved in arts and culture, sport and physical activity, civic engagement and personal development.

Our vision is an Ireland where all older people can be more active, more visible, more creative, more connected, more confident, more often.

We work with local communities and organisations across the country to run a range of programmes and activities in three key areas:

- **Age & Opportunity Arts** provides opportunities for us to engage more in arts and cultural events and initiatives
- **Age & Opportunity Active** is designed to get us more active and participate in recreational sport and physical activity
- **Age & Opportunity Engage** offers a range of workshops and learning initiatives for our own personal development as well as opportunities for us to play an active role in our community.

Age & Opportunity **Arts** is our dedicated arts and culture programme running throughout the year in local communities all over Ireland. We host a range of

# Bealtaine Festival

An Age & Opportunity **arts** initiative



different creative initiatives including the annual Bealtaine Festival which takes place throughout the month of May, and is delivered in partnership with communities and organisations nationwide. Bealtaine is Ireland's national festival which uniquely celebrates the arts and creativity as we age.

Age & Opportunity is funded by

