

Artists Care Exchange (ACE)

Deadline: 5pm, Friday 8th September, 2023

Information for applicants

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.

Specifically, our Arts programme aims to support and provide resources for artists, arts participants/audiences and arts organisations. We do this through our annual Bealtaine Festival, which is Ireland's month-long (May) national festival celebrating the arts and creativity as we age and our Resource, and Development Programme.

Artists Care Exchange (ACE)

Age & Opportunity is seeking applications from **professional artists with an interest and background in the arts and older people in a care context**, to participate in the second iteration of Age & Opportunity's professional development Arts initiative, the Artists Care Exchange (ACE). Professional artists from a wide range of art forms are encouraged to apply, including but not limited to visual arts, dance, theatre, creative writing, music, circus and multidisciplinary arts.

ACE will offer six – eight professional artists who work in care settings with older people an opportunity to exchange information, advice, and experiences in a group situation, whilst also learning from a range of experts in the social, medical, and arts fields. **Participants will sign up for seven facilitated sessions**

taking place from 28th September to 14th December 2023, each focusing on them as a group. Each session will comprise of delivery on a specific topic delivered by an expert and a chat session, with a specific focus on arts and ageing in care. There will also be an online **mentoring** session, giving participants the opportunity to learn further from more experienced artists. **It is proposed that the sessions will meet via Zoom, (except for the first and final session which will take place in Dublin), according to the following schedule:**

Session 1 – 28th Sept (in person)

Session 2 – 5th Oct

Session 3 – 19th Oct

Session 4 – 2nd Nov

Session 5 – 16th Nov

Session 6 – 30th Nov

Session 7 – 14th Dec (in person)

Breakdown of session content

The sessions will address the following areas:

1. Introduction focussing on participants' expectations and experience.
2. Understanding the care setting's perspective.
3. The practice and ethics of working in care settings including: ageing / ageism and understanding dementia and age-related health issues.
4. Considerations for working in hybrid contexts.
5. Understanding how to research and evaluate your project.
6. Finance, funding, and grant application.
7. Group recap and feedback session.

Plus online mentoring up to 8hrs per participant artist, matching experienced artists with each artist participant.

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Have experience working in care settings with older people
- Have a track record as a professional artist
- Demonstrate the impact of mentoring process on future development
- Demonstrate commitment to working in this field
- **Plan to attend every session**

Application Requirements

The following materials should be submitted to the Arts programme administrator, Jessica Burton Restrict arts@ageandopportunity.ie no later than **5pm on Friday, September 8th**.

- Completed application form
- CV or short biography, along with 3 examples of your work

Assessment:

Please note, applications will be assessed by an Age & Opportunity appointed panel.

- Applicants will be assessed on the selection criteria and the questions answered on the application form
- Incomplete applications will be disqualified

Any queries relating to ACE may be directed to Jessica by email, including requests for assistance with filling out the application form.

We aim to communicate final decisions by September 22nd. 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.