

National Arts in Nursing Homes Day (May 17th 2024) Award 2024

Deadline: 5pm, Friday
February 26th 2024



Information for applicants

Age & Opportunity's Bealtaine Festival, in partnership with Nursing Homes Ireland, wish to recognise three outstanding arts projects through the **National Arts in Nursing Homes Day Award**.

We invite applications from care settings who wish to facilitate their residents' artistic and creative expression by organising interactive and engaging arts workshops, sessions and events led by professional artists. These care settings

will aim to create an exciting and suitable Bealtaine project that celebrates their residents arts and creative talents, culminating in a festival event (which may be online, blended or in-person)*. This will be presented as part of **National Arts in Nursing Homes Day** that will take place Friday 17th May during the Bealtaine Festival 2024. It presents an opportunity to bring together residents, families, care staff and artists to promote the arts in your care setting, to support residents in expressing their creative talents and to take joy from a creative arts initiative.

*Please refer to the section on Health & Safety below regarding blended and in-person events.

About Bealtaine Festival

Bealtaine is Ireland's national festival which uniquely celebrates the arts and creativity as we age. The festival is run by Age & Opportunity, the national organisation working to improve the quality of life for us all as we age. Bealtaine is at the centre of Age & Opportunity's Arts programme and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2020. . Our Bealtaine theme for 2024 – 2026 is *Lust for Life*, based on Iggy Pop's iconic punk-era song celebrating life's dreams, ambitions, intoxications and excesses. We love the relevance of this to our post Covid lives, the traditional start of the summer, second chances and indeed the nod to punk era culture. While this theme often provides a useful framework for Bealtaine events, care settings are not required to refer to it.

About Nursing Homes Ireland

Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI) is the representative organisation for the private and voluntary nursing home sector in Ireland. Over 400 private and voluntary nursing homes are members of NHI, providing specialised care in a 'home from home' to circa 25,000 people in communities across Ireland. Circa 40,000 people are employed in the private and voluntary nursing home sector. Care is

at the heart of NHI, which supports its members to deliver the very highest standards of clinical, health and social care. Person-centred care that promotes resident talents and interests has an integral role to fulfil in supporting the health and wellbeing of nursing home residents.

National Arts in Nursing Homes Day Award

The Age & Opportunity and Nursing Homes Ireland **National Arts in Nursing Homes Day Award** aims to encourage and support access to the arts for the residents of care settings and to support care settings to participate in Bealtaine. The award also aims to demonstrate how the arts can contribute to the overall well-being and care of residents in care settings.

Participation might involve planning a new arts project/initiative/event (which may be online, blended or in-person) for their setting and must involve at least one professional artist. An ideal project would consist of a number of artist engagements with residents before a final celebration event. The **National Arts in Nursing Homes Day Award** is not expected to cover the total costs of the event (which must be contributed to by the care setting).

One award of €1,000 and two awards of €500 will be made to the three successful applicants.

The first **National Arts in Nursing Homes Day** was held in May 2021 and saw 144 care settings around the country get involved in arts activities to celebrate the spirit of Bealtaine. We hope to see even more care settings take part each year.

Through participating in **National Arts in Nursing Homes Day**, each care setting will have the opportunity to raise public awareness about their work and to refocus attention on the vibrant and creative life of their residents while bringing a professional artist into their setting. **National Arts in Nursing Homes Day** will also be an opportunity to celebrate the sometimes hidden, but hugely

valuable work of creating a space where all residents can express themselves meaningfully through arts experiences.

Call for Applications

Age & Opportunity and Nursing Homes Ireland invites applications from care settings for one of three **National Arts in Care Homes Day** awards.

Application Process:

Those wishing to apply for the **National Arts in Care Homes Day Award** should complete the online application form application form. This includes:

- Artist's CV and 3 x examples of their work

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria and applicants should pay special attention to these when completing the application form:

Eligibility Criteria:

- The project/initiative/event should include at least one **professional artist*** (working in any art form – visual artist, theatre artist, musician etc). Activity coordinators already working in the nursing home will not meet this criteria.
- Professional artists may apply but only in partnership with the care setting.
- Care settings** must financially contribute to the project/initiative/event or provide some in-kind supports.

*For the purposes of the award, we are defining a professional artist as 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, Music Network etc.).

Additionally, for the purposes of the award we are defining a project/initiative/event as an arts project lead by a professional artist within a care setting that involves the residents and staff and takes place over the course of days, weeks or months (as above). It is envisioned that this project then leads to a celebration event in the spirit of Bealtaine, to take place during May 2024. Please see appendix 1 for more information on what qualifies as an arts initiative/event.

**In this instance we define care settings as nursing homes or day care centres.

Selection Criteria:

- A project/initiative/event that is **ambitious** in form or content, experimental, innovative or challenging.
- A project/initiative/event that is focussed on the **engagement** of the residents and visitors to the centre and takes place over time.
- A project/initiative/event that clearly **resonates** with Age & Opportunity's and Nursing Homes Ireland's missions and/or target audiences.
- Track record of the care setting/event organiser in developing creative or arts projects/working with artists.
- Track record of the professional artist as demonstrated by CV and 3 examples of work.
- A project/initiative/event that is clearly **achievable/feasible** in the timeframe outlined.

Applications should be submitted via the online application form no later than **5pm, Friday February 26th 2024.**

Any queries relating to the award may also be directed to our Arts Administrator, Jessica Burton Restrick by email at arts@ageandopportunity.ie, including requests for assistance with filling out the application form.

We aim to communicate final decisions by March 11th 2024. 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

The care setting/artist will:

- Produce all aspects of the project/initiative/event to include but not be limited to booking artists, promoting the event, etc;
- Produce all technical aspects that may apply to an online initiative/event;
- Prominently credit Age & Opportunity/Bealtaine and Nursing Homes Ireland as co-producers/supporters of the project/initiative/event;
- Commit to the timeframe of May 2024 for the event;
- Commit to some financial contribution or in-kind supports to the project/initiative/event;
- Provide key materials to Bealtaine and Nursing Homes Ireland such as: high quality image/photo for marketing purposes, promotional text, as well as making themselves available for PR opportunities;
- Provide a short report on the event after the fact including high quality images/photos of the event;
- Ensure that all guidelines and policies relating to Health & Safety are adhered to if any part of the event is to be held in person.

Age & Opportunity and Nursing Homes Ireland will:

- Provide a platform for the event through the Bealtaine Festival;

- Provide PR support through the Bealtaine Festival, (the event will need to also have its own PR plan) and Nursing Homes Ireland's communications;
- Provide a financial contribution of €1,000 or €500. (There are three awards available; all funded by Age & Opportunity and NHI).

Health & Safety

Applicants should understand our commitment to holding events in line with current government guidelines around Covid-19 and our own Health & Safety policy and Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding protocols. Risk assessments will be carried out for any in-person events and relevant documents such as safety statements will be required from the successful applicant and any artist involved.

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 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.

Appendix 1 – What is and isn't an arts or culture event?

Bealtaine considers any event that involves an artistic medium or relates to wider cultural concerns as an arts or culture event.

Examples of eligible art forms are:

- Dance
- Drama/Theatre
- Film
- Literature
- Music
- Opera
- Poetry
- Traditional Arts (traditional music, craft or storytelling)
- Visual arts (painting, sculpture, installation, textiles, etc.)
- Circus Arts

Examples of cultural events that include an arts aspect:

- Food related event - a coffee morning with live music or poetry.
- Historical event – a walking tour with a scene recreated by an actor.
- Reminiscence event – a storytelling event or visual art workshop based on reminiscences.

Types of events may include:

- An artist talk or interview
- A guided tour of an arts and culture space/exhibition
- A workshop on particular art form or craft
- A performance or screening

- Commissioning an artist to make new work

Examples of non-arts events:

- Sporting events
- Table quizzes
- Yoga/pilates/meditation
- An event that has no artistic or creative element

Please note that the above is not exhaustive.

If you are unsure if your event is an arts/creative event, check to see does it contain one of the art forms above or is there an artist (visual artist, theatre artist, musician, etc.) involved in the event?

Please also see the resources for event organisers section of bealtaine.ie for more information and ideas.