

Creative Ageing Writing Bursary 2024

Deadline: 5pm, Friday March 22nd 2024

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 29 years old in 2024 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 devise 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, First Music Contact, 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 the arts and ageing in

Ireland. The bursary is intended to afford time and space for an artist, writer, or arts worker to reflect on their practice or ideas as they relate to the arts and ageing. For artists, this reflection can include the learnings, insights but also challenges the artist has faced as they have gotten older or as they have gained more experience in their work with older people. For writers who are interested in contributing to thinking about this sector, they may wish to write more generally about the arts and ageing. Arts worker may wish to write about their experiences working with older people. In the coming years, we hope to contribute to this growing body of knowledge of the arts and ageing in Ireland as we continue to offer this award.

The essay is intended to be useful for people who work with or are thinking of working with older people (including older artists), while generating discussion and debate about this area of work.

The inaugural bursary was made in 2021 and awarded to Dublin-based theatre-maker, playwright, and performer, Michelle Read. [You can read her essay here.](#)

The 2022 bursary was awarded to actor, writer, and theatre maker, Noelle Brown. [You can read her essay here.](#)

The 2023 bursary was awarded to writer and activist Laurence McKeown. [You can read his 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/arts worker to reflect on their practice/work as they have aged - the learnings, insights but also challenges they have faced;
- An artist/writer/arts worker 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 online application form, as well as uploading a CV and a sample of writing no more than 3 pages long. Applicants whose primary practice is not in writing are asked to provide samples of their practice/work/organisation **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 worker;
- a writer working in any field (this does not necessarily mean a literary writer).
- Acknowledges they are solely responsible for ensuring they have Public Liability Insurance cover.

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/writers/arts workers who may have significant experience of working with older people.

Note on terms

While there is no one definition of a professional artist, there are a number of guideline criteria that can be used:

- Do you work in any of the areas of visual art, architecture, music, media, performing art, literature, circus, community art, traditional art, public art, film and spectacle or related areas?
- Do you have regular practice as an artist?
- Do you earn or attempt to earn a living from your art practice?
- Do you have a degree or diploma from a 3rd level institution?
- Are you a member of a professional representative body such as: Visual Artists Ireland, Film Director's Ireland, Association of Irish Composers or equivalent.
- Does your CV clearly show a professional career (however early in this case).

Selection Criteria:

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Strength of **track record** to date or potential as indicated through your CV;
- Artistic quality and ambition as evident through your **supporting material**;

- **Contribution to knowledge** around creative ageing in Ireland;
- **Feasibility** of proposal.

Applications should be submitted via the online application form no later than **Friday 5pm, Friday March 22nd 2024**.

Any queries relating to the Bursary may be directed by email to arts@ageandopportunity.ie , including requests for assistance with filling out the application form.

We aim to communicate final decisions by April-May 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

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

- First draft should be delivered by Friday 7th July 2024;
- Final draft should be delivered by Friday 28th July 2024;
- 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:

Bealtaine Festival

An Age & Opportunity **arts** initiative



- **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.