Bealtaine Festival
An Age & Opportunity arts initiative

Age & Opportunity

Emerging Artist 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.

Emerging Artist Bursary

Age & Opportunity recognises that many people don't have the time or resources to take up artistic practice when they are younger. For these artists, getting older enables a freeing up of responsibilities, allowing more time for pursuing existing and new artistic interests.

Age & Opportunity is funded by HSE SPORT IRELAND the arts council an chomhairle ealaíon funding the arts

The Age & Opportunity ***Emerging Artist Bursary** aims to encourage and support older artists who are at an early stage in their career. We would like to celebrate the determination and achievements of someone in the second half of their life who has embarked on a full-time artistic path with a view to becoming a professional artist. **The award also aims to publicly demonstrate the value of older artists.**

The Bursary is specifically intended to afford time and space for an outstanding emerging artist to develop their practice through buying time to work, (including materials). It is our hope that this Bursary would lead to a presentation at Bealtaine 2024/2025, although we recognise that this may not be possible in all cases.

Please note that there is a separate award for professional development (which includes training, etc.).

Notes on terms

For the purposes of this Bursary, we define an emerging artist as someone in the early years of establishing a professional career who may have returned to third level education to pursue an artform, or who has some artistic experience but has yet to receive a formal showcasing invitation or media attention, and who might be said to be still in the process of mastering their practice. However, 'emerging' is a hard word to define in this context, and all applicants must state why they classify themselves as an emerging artist through the application form.

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).

One Bursary of €1,000 will be made to the successful applicant.

Call for Applications

Application Process:

Those wishing to apply for the Emerging Artist Bursary should complete the online application form, as well as uploading a CV, a sample of work (no more than 3 images/videos/files), and a letter of support/recommendation from a professional organisation or professional artist.

Eligibility Criteria:

The Age & Opportunity Emerging Artist Bursary will be offered to a professional artist, (working in any artform) aged 50 + who:

- is at an early and pivotal stage in their career as demonstrated in their application (as demonstrated through the application form and CV);

- is working in any artform and based in the Republic of Ireland;
- has a demonstrated intention to pursue a professional practice* (see above).
- Acknowledges they are solely responsibility for ensuring they have Public Liability Insurance cover.

Selection Criteria:

Please note, applications will be assessed by an Age & Opportunity appointed panel according to the following criteria:

- Strength of track record to date or potential as indicated through your track record/CV
- Demonstration of being at an **early and pivotal stage** in your career
- Artistic quality and ambition as evident through your **supporting material;**
- Demonstration of **how this Bursary will** benefit/contribute to your development as an artist;
- Demonstration of **intention to showcase** your work at Bealtaine 2024/2025***;**
- Personal **letter of support/recommendation** from a professional organisation or professional artist.

*this might include a letter from an arts venue or organisation, gallery etc. supporting a potential showcase.

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

Any queries relating to the Bursary may also be directed to 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.

Health & Safety

Applicants should understand that they are responsible for their own Health & Safety during any activity undertaken associated with this award, though Age & Opportunity's Safety Statement will be shared for information. The successful recipient will be required to sign a short contract form that asks for adherence to general Health & Safety legislation.

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.

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