

Artists Care Exchange (ACE)

Deadline: 12pm, Wednesday, July 24th, 2024

Age & Opportunity is pleased to offer a unique professional development bursary to professional artists with an interest and background in the arts and older people in a care context.

The Artists Care Exchange (ACE) bursary is intended to help artists develop their skills, contacts and professionalism so that they can work more confidently and expertly with older people in a care setting. ACE also aims to help artists understand the various ways to find paid work in this developing field.

Eligible professional artists from a wide range of art forms are encouraged to apply to ACE, including but not limited to: visual arts, dance, theatre, literature music, circus and multidisciplinary arts.

ACE Programme Description

Who it is for: ACE will offer an opportunity for six-eight professional artists who work, or wish to work* in care settings with older people to exchange information, advice, and experiences in a group setting, whilst also learning from a range of experts in the social, medical, and arts fields. Experienced artists can renew and upskill their knowledge by participating in ACE and new entrants in the field will gain a new learning foundation in this field of work. Overall, ACE provides a rich setting for networking and co-learning from other participant artists, and also from the speakers.

We encourage artists who have previously participated in our Introduction to Arts, Health and the Older Person programme to consider applying, as ACE provides a natural progression to further their understanding and skills for working in care settings.

We also welcome applications from artists from backgrounds currently underrepresented in the arts, in accordance with our commitment to EDI principles. We particularly encourage applications from people who are D/deaf, neurodivergent & disabled, LGBTQIA+, Minority Ethnic, Black & Persons of Colour, Roma, a member of the Travelling Community, and from working class backgrounds.

(*Artists with an interest but no direct experience in care settings are also welcome to apply, however, they will need to demonstrate their suitability to the programme by telling us about their experience in adjacent fields, such as community, education or health settings.)

What to expect: The programme elements consist of:

- a) Seven facilitated half day sessions fortnightly on Wednesdays. (2 in person, 5 online)
- b) A mentoring arrangement with a mentor of the participant's choosing.
- c) An emphasis on peer learning and cooperative group sharing.
- d) Participants who have completed all elements of the programme will receive a certificate of completion.

The process of the mentoring arrangement is to be decided between the participant mentee and mentor. The mentee needs to express a clear need for a mentor in their application. A mentor is available for up to 8 hours including preparation, feedback and meetings which can take place in person or online. Mentoring guidelines which outline codes of practice will be circulated to mentoring pairings.

Timeline: August 28th to December 11th. (Mentoring arrangements will end January 2025.)

Successful participants will commit to attending the seven sessions, which are designed to answer their learning needs as a group. Each session will comprise of delivery on a topic delivered by an expert and a chat session, with a specific focus on arts and ageing in care. There will also be an opportunity for participants to share their experiences and exchange tips and tools via the presentation of case studies.

The online sessions will take place on Zoom, and the in-person (first and last) sessions will be in Dublin, according to the schedule below. A travel stipend is available for those

travelling from outside Dublin county to attend the in-person sessions.

Sessions Breakdown (Wednesdays):

1	28 th Aug– In person	1. Introduction & Participant Focus
2	18 th Sep - Online	2. The Care Setting Artist & Activity Coordinator Perspectives
3	2 nd Oct- Online	3. Working with Older People - Different Ways of Working
4	30 th Oct- Online	4. Rights, Ethics, & Care in Creative Collaboration
5	13 th Nov- online	5. Critical Reflection, Research & Documentation
6	27 th Nov - Online	6. Funding, Peer Support & Partnership
7	11 th Dec– In person	7. Gathering the Threads - Reflection on the Artists Care Exchange

Application Procedure

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Have a track record as a professional artist*
- Demonstrate experience working in residential care or community settings with older people. (i.e. in daycare centres, nursing homes or hospitals)
- Demonstrate the impact of mentoring process on future development
- Express commitment to working in this field
- **Commit in writing to attend every session**

*To determine professional status we consider these questions:

- 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?

The above refers specifically to work done 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.

Application Requirements

The following materials should be submitted to the Arts programme administrator, Jessica Burton Restruck arts@ageandopportunity.ie no later than **12pm on Wednesday July 24th, 2024**, with **ACE application 2024** in the subject line.

- Completed application form
- CV or short biography, along with 3 examples of your work (ie selected images, scripts, youtube links, a writing example of no more than 3 pages etc.)

Assessment:

Please note, applications will be assessed by an Age & Opportunity-appointed selection 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. You will receive an acknowledgement of your application. ***If you do not receive one within 48 hours of submission, please contact us immediately.***

We aim to communicate final decisions 2nd August 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.

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.

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