

The Arts Council - Young Ensembles Scheme

The primary purpose of this award is to support young ensembles in developing their artistic practice in an out-of-schools context.

Scheme Details

Status:	Grant Range:	Funding Source:	Cash Type:
Open	Up to €5,000 Up to €60,000	Statutory	Revenue

Exclusions:

Those who are not eligible to apply include the following:

- Those seeking to create work for children and young people but in which children and young people are primarily consumers or audience members rather than active participants in developing the artistic initiative
- Commercially driven schools, institutions or companies
- Primary and post-primary schools and third-level institutions
- Applicants in receipt of Arts Council Strategic Funding in 2018

The Arts Council is the national agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in Ireland. The Council recognises that the arts have a central and distinctive contribution to make to society.

The primary purpose of this award is to support groups of young people between the ages of 12 and 23 to create ambitious and original work together in any art form (e.g., circus, dance, digital media, film, music, theatre, literature, visual arts, or any combination of the above). Groups/ensembles must be made up of 3 or more members.

Criteria & Eligibility

Priority will be given to applications that demonstrate the following:

- The capacity to deliver a high-quality artistic process that is ambitious and original, provides a challenging and rewarding experience for the participants, and enables them to develop their artistic skills.
- A process that ensures young people will have a strong sense of 'artistic ownership' of the project they undertake. This may mean they will have a role in devising, creating, composing or designing an original piece of work or artistic initiative, or that they will undergo a well-structured process of exploring, interpreting, or reimagining a given script/composition/artistic work or initiative.
- Youth-led initiatives, and/or initiatives that actively support and develop youth leadership, with the support or mentorship of professional artists or arts organisations.
- Evidence of the ensemble's artistic activities or work produced to date, and how funding will enable the participants to develop their experience further. (In the case of a new ensemble, evidence of other relevant projects in which the young people or artistic leaders have been involved should be demonstrated.)
- Evidence that young people have played a central role in developing the proposal, and will be involved in documenting, reflecting on and evaluating the project.

Who is eligible to apply?

The Young Ensembles Scheme is open to ensembles whose members are young people between the ages of twelve and twenty-four.

Eligible ensembles include groups such as the following:

- Youth theatres
- Youth film, animation or digital-media groups
- Youth dance groups
- Youth circus, spectacle, or street-theatre groups
- Youth orchestras
- Youth choirs
- Young bands
- Young traditional music groups.

The award is also open to groups that do not define themselves as ensembles but take a similar, collective approach to creating art; this includes:

- Groups of young visual artists who work collaboratively to create exhibitions of their work (or single, collaborative works of art such as mural or graffiti pieces)
- Groups of young poets or writers who publish or perform work together
- Groups of young people who combine a number of art forms to create shared performances/events.

What may you apply for?

The maximum award available under this scheme is €10,000.

In addition to the normal limits stated above, the Arts Council will also consider costs specifically relating to the making of work by artists and young people with disabilities. If you wish to apply for additional funding on this basis, you should provide information with your application outlining what these additional costs are.

You may apply for funding relating to the costs of a specific artistic initiative that fits within the purpose and priorities of the award.

The following are some examples of projects that have been funded under the Young Ensembles Scheme:

- An established youth theatre applied to develop an ambitious new production devised by a cast of young people from a range of cultural backgrounds under the guidance of the youth theatre's artistic director. The initiative built on an outreach programme targeting immigrant communities, and had the long-term aim of making the youth-theatre's membership more culturally diverse.
- Young people with and without disabilities, who had previously worked together on group projects in dance, animation and video, sought to establish themselves as an integrated youth arts group and further develop their artistic skills. The young people were involved in selecting artists/facilitators to work with them and in developing the artistic programme, while the group's steering committee included representatives from local youth organisations, the Irish Wheelchair Association, and the local arts office.
- A collective of young artists and music promoters, with a track record in organising events for their peers, successfully applied for funding to run an all-ages performance and exhibition space. The application was written by two young people in partnership with an established arts venue.
- A visual arts gallery applied to work with a group of eight to ten young people between sixteen and nineteen years of age to create an original video art project that explores music. The young people collaborated with practising artists through weekly workshops, and developed technical and collaborative skills in media-art production.
- A youth dance group, which had developed a performance with a local professional dance artist/choreographer, applied to create a new, artistically ambitious piece of work together. The application was made by the young ensemble as a voluntary unincorporated group.

How to Apply

All applications for funding must be submitted via the Arts Council online services website. [Please visit the Arts Council website for full application details.](#)

Important Dates

Explanation of deadline	Reason	<u>Date</u>
Deadline for applications @ 5.30pm	Closing (temporarily)	15 Feb 2018
Opening for applications	Opening	16 Jan 2018

Contact Details

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