



## CITY ARTS GRANTS

The closing date for the City Arts Grants was November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016). There are, as usual, three categories of support.

- **Revenue Grants;** Arts organisations of standing and longevity whose work makes a significant contribution to the City (total granted in 2016 310K, average 12-15K).
- **Project Grants:** 2017. Support for a play or exhibition or other Arts projects (total amount granted in 2016 €120K, average grant €2-5K).
- **Neighbourhood Grants:** Funding aimed at achieving quality arts provision at local level with strong input from local residents and organisations working with an artist or arts organisation (amount awarded in 2016 €100K, average grant €2-5K).

A comprehensive review of Arts Grants took place in 2013 and a further study of Revenue Grants in 2014. There is a consistent demand and strong outputs from Revenue and Project Grants but there still remains a shortage of high quality Neighbourhood applications. To address this deficit I wish to set out a new proposal for this year's adjudication of Neighbourhood Arts Grants.

As a developmental unit within Dublin City Council the Arts Office is very aware of the barriers to access the Arts, be they socio-economic, educational, age related, bureaucratic etc. These barriers or even the perception of barriers is a continuing difficulty for the relevance of the Arts and for the unique contribution that the Arts can make to quality of life, social inclusion and economic development.

When community organisations have spoken to the Arts Office about Neighbourhood Arts Grants, and this view has been echoed by Councillors, they speak of the difficulty of addressing the application process in the comprehensive way required primarily due to lack of experience and a lack of understanding of the language and type of project required. It is my view that following on the experience and success of the National Neighbourhood Project with the National Cultural Institutions that a partnership approach to Neighbourhood Grants rather than an application and funding process is now worth exploring on a pilot basis. As Arts Grants are a Reserved Function I will require the permission of Council to proceed.

I wish to recommend that €50K of the Neighbourhood Arts Grant allocation be earmarked for partnership, €10K per area and that whether through the Neighbourhood Grants process and/or through consultation with the Area Offices, a Neighbourhood Arts Project in each area be identified.

Each project selected will work with an Arts Officer and with the Area Office to develop the community groups, artists and arts organisations capacity to collaborate strongly and deliver the project to a standard that all can be proud of. The possibility of matching funding from Area Offices will also be explored as will the potential of corporate sponsorship. Funding of the project will follow its development.

Each year after shortlisting and assessment, the Arts Grants are reviewed by externs and at least two Councillors before recommendation to Council. This year in the case of Neighbourhood Arts Grants, up to €50K will be distributed as normal and for the pilot phase up to five projects will be proposed, one in each area. A full report will come before Council in January 2017 for approval.

**Ray Yeates**  
**City Arts Officer**  
**14<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

