



Authored Works Award 2024

Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline: 5.30pm (Ireland Time), Thursday 6 June 2024

Note for people with disabilities or access requirements

The Arts Council makes every effort to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities or access requirements who wish to submit an application or who have difficulties in accessing Online Services. If you have a requirement in this area, please contact the Arts Council's Access Officer, by phone (01 618 0200/01 618 0243) or by email (access@artscouncil.ie) as early as possible before the deadline.

CONTENTS

Getting help with your application	3
Key points to remember	4
1. About the Authored Works Award	5
1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award	5
1.2 Who can apply?	5
1.3 Who is the applicant?	6
1.4 Who cannot apply?	6
1.5 What may you apply for?	6
1.6 What may you not apply for?	7
1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?	8
1.8 Eligibility	10
2. How to make your application	11
2.1 Register with the Arts Council's Online Services	11
2.2 Fill in the application form	12
2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application	12
2.4 Make your application online	14
3. Processing and assessment of applications	16
3.1 Overview	16
3.2 The assessment process	16
3.3 Criteria for the assessment of applications	16
3.4 Selection panel	17
3.5 Outcome of applications	18

Getting help with your application

If you have questions about using the Online Services website, visit the FAQ section on our website: www.artscouncil.ie/FAQs/online-services/

If you have a technical question about the online application process and your question is not answered in the FAQ section, you can email onlineservices@artscouncil.ie or call the Arts Council on **01 618 0200/01 618 0243**

If you have a query about your application that is not technical in nature, you should email or phone the arts team to which you are applying for funding.

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/Contact-us/Staff-and-adviser-lists/>

To watch our YouTube guide on making an application, go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a3xeZdZj3oh>

Key points to remember

- In order to make an application, you **must** be registered for an Arts Council Online Services (OLS) account. If you do not have one, you can sign up for one [here](#). Please note that it can take up to **five working days** for a new user to be registered on OLS, so give yourself plenty of time to do this ahead of the deadline.
- We strongly advise that you read this document carefully before beginning the process of making your application.
- We also strongly advise that you start the process early, and give yourself **plenty of time** to make your application.
- We recommend that you aim to upload your application **at least forty-eight hours** before the advertised deadline. That way, if you encounter a technical problem, you will have time to contact us so that we can assist you in resolving it.
- Please note that, on account of the large volume of applicants using the online system on the last day of the deadline, we cannot guarantee that we can resolve any technical issues you may have if you contact us **after 2.00pm on the day of the deadline**.
- Please read the following checklist carefully:

-
- I have read and understand these guidelines.
 - In the event that I have had an issue, I have contacted the Arts Council for assistance.
 - I have filled in all of the sections of the application form relevant to my application.
 - I have prepared all required supporting material as set out in these guidelines, and have this ready to upload.
 - I have asked someone else to check over my application to make sure there are no errors and that nothing is missing.
-

1. About the Authored Works Award

1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award

The purpose of the Authored Works Award is to provide film artists with the creative and editorial freedom to make a feature-length authored cultural film work from a strong artistic point of view. Films must be artist-led.

One film will be supported in 2024. A total fund of up to €247,500 will be made available to the successful applicant. This includes a production budget of up to €230,000 and further exhibition support of up to €17,500. This will be made available following completion of the film and on submission of an exhibition strategy (which must include a budget line for captioning and audio-description) to be approved by the Arts Council. Only films that can be made within this budget will be considered. The film must be completed to premiere at the Irish Film Institute, our exhibition partner, at an agreed date in 2026. Applicants will be notified in July 2024 if they have been shortlisted and a selection panel will be convened. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to discuss the detail of their proposals with the selection panel, which is expected to be convened in July 2024.

It is important for the Arts Council that films made with its support are preserved and made available to the public into the future. For this reason, recipients of film-production awards are required to deposit at least one digital cinema print (DCP) at the IFI Irish Film Archive, and budgetary provision should be made for this within the application. Details of these requirements are available on our website (<http://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Film/Awards-and-Initiatives/>) and will be issued to successful applicants with their letter of offer.

All awards are informed by the Arts Council's ten-year strategy (2016–25), *Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland* (see here: <http://www.artscouncil.ie/arts-council-strategy/>). Current film policy is aligned to the key objectives of *Making Great Art Work*, and can be viewed here: http://www.artscouncil.ie/Film_Policy_2018

1.2 Who can apply?

The award is open to individual film artists or the film artist's production company.

Note: any grant offered will only be paid into a bank account held in the name of the applicant, and the applicant will be required to accept the terms and conditions of that grant. Please refer to 'Who is the applicant?' below for further details.

- Be resident in the Republic of Ireland. However, we may accept applications from outside the Republic of Ireland. In this case, you must detail in your application form how your proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland. We would need to be satisfied with your explanation.

As part of its [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#), the Arts Council is committed to offering **equality of access, opportunity and outcomes** to all potential applicants

regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community, or socio-economic background. In this funding scheme the Arts Council particularly welcomes applications that are representative of the diversity of Irish society, including but not limited to any of the characteristics outlined above, and/or initiatives that deliver equitable opportunities or outcomes for those involved.

1.3 Who is the applicant?

The applicant is the film artist or the film artist's production company that will receive any grant offered and who will be required to accept the terms and conditions of that grant.

Any grant offered will only be paid into a bank account held in the **name of the applicant** (i.e. either an individual film artist or the film artist's production company). If you want the grant to be paid to the film artist's production company, you must apply in the name of that company. Please give due consideration to this before making your application as changes cannot be made after application.

All documentation provided must be in the name of the applicant (individual film artist or film artist's production company) – e.g. if you apply to the Arts Council for funding under the name Máire de Barra, then all documentation, including bank and tax details, must be in that name. Variations such as Mary Barry or Barry Studios are not acceptable

1.4 Who cannot apply?

Applicants who are not eligible to apply include the following:

- Individuals currently in undergraduate or postgraduate education or who will be during the period for which this award is offered.

1.5 What may you apply for?

You may apply for up to €230,000 for production.

In addition to the normal limits stated above, the Arts Council will also consider costs specifically relating to the making of work by artists 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.

In applying for Authored Works Award funding, you are required to submit a detailed budget listing all items of expenditure relating to your proposed project.

Proposed expenditure should include all fees,* wages, production costs, technical costs, administrative costs, etc.

*** Note on artists' pay** The Arts Council is committed to improving the pay and conditions of artists. We have published a [policy](#) on the fair and equitable remuneration and contracting of artists. It is important that you read this policy in advance of making your application. You will be asked as part of the application process to set out how you will ensure proper pay and conditions for the artists that you work with. This will help us assess the feasibility of your application.

You are asked to indicate expenditure and amount requested at three stages during your application:

- On the detailed budget that you submit as part of your application
- Online, when you initiate the application (totals only)
- In section 3 of the application form.

Make sure that the totals are the same on all three.

Access costs for artists or participants¹ with disabilities

In addition to the maximum amount permitted, the Arts Council will also consider access costs specifically relating to the making of work by artists or participants with disabilities and/or non-capital public-access costs (e.g. audio description, interpretation) in cases where your proposal has a public outcome.

The Arts Council takes the definition of disability from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which states: 'Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.'

If you wish to apply for access costs, please upload the following information with your application:

- A short document outlining what your additional access costs are
- An amount for access costs in the expenditure section of your application-form budget. This figure should also be included in the total amount you request.

What is an access cost?

Access costs for artists or participants with disabilities cover any requirements you may have in order to remove barriers that might stop you from completing your proposal. This may include, for example, costs towards additional time needed to complete an element of your proposal or additional assistance required to deliver your proposed activity.

Note: in the event that you are requesting access costs, you should include information about the costs and how you arrived at them as part of your supporting documentation (see section 1.7 below).

1.6 What may you not apply for?

You may not apply for more than one Authored Works Award in any one round of funding.

Activities and costs that you may not apply for include the following:

- Activities and costs that do not fit the purpose of the award, including:
 - Conventional film or television drama that would be more appropriate for consideration by another funding agency or broadcaster
 - Arts documentaries (please refer to the Reel Art Award)

¹ The Arts Council defines participants as those who express themselves creatively by taking part in artistic activities. In broader terms, this includes anyone who engages with the arts in any way at any level – e.g. those attending an event, reading a book, watching a performance, etc.

- Moving-image projects for exhibition in galleries – such projects are more suited to the Visual Arts Project Award
- Activities delivered in a formal education setting (including work for PhD programmes)
- Activities that are focused on the business of film-making
- Completion funding
- Major capital purchases
- Ongoing core costs
- Activities that are more suited to another award funded by the Arts Council or operated by other state agencies, including broadcasters, Screen Ireland or Culture Ireland
- Activities that have already taken place
- Activities undertaken for charity-fundraising purposes, for participation in a competition, or for primarily profit-making purposes
- Activities that have already been assessed by the Arts Council, unless you demonstrate that you have developed the proposal since previously applying **or** if the Council has specifically advised you to redirect your application to this award. Please bear in mind that such advice is not an indication of a successful outcome.

1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?

Supporting material means material that is **separate from** and **additional to** your application form. This helps the person assessing your application to get a clearer understanding of your proposal. Please read what supporting material is required below very carefully, as failure to comply with this is the most common reason for applications being deemed ineligible.

In order to be considered eligible for assessment for the Authored Works Award, you **must** submit the required supporting material as follows:

- A completed Authored Works Award application form
- Detailed up-to-date CVs (max. three pages) of the creative team involved in the proposal, including director, producer, writer, editor
- Treatment of the proposed work (max. 6 x A4 pages); this should be uploaded as a supporting document and should be labelled 'Treatment'
- Notes outlining intended approach
- Detailed budget (including music and subject clearances, deliverables and marketing materials); this must be in addition to the budget information provided in the application form
- Evidence of ownership of rights (copies of all option and writers agreements entered into in respect of story and script if applicable to the project)
- Written confirmation in the form of clearances and permissions of key subjects' willingness to participate
- Examples of the artist's recent work in film that are indicative of their film practice and inform the proposed work – these should be in the form of three ten-minute (max.) excerpts and should not be presented as a showreel. You may submit these as video files or as YouTube links included in a text document. Please note that links to material hosted on sites other than YouTube will not be viewed, **and your application will be deemed ineligible.**
- An **indicative** exhibition strategy for the proposed work; this should be uploaded as a supporting document and should be labelled 'Indicative Exhibition Strategy'.

Note: links to streaming platforms may be used to provide samples of work. Stand-alone supporting material such as CVs and letters of support, etc. must be uploaded as separate documents with your application.

Additional material required in certain circumstances

If you are seeking additional access costs to support work by individuals with access requirements or to support access to your work by audiences with disability requirements, please provide a document outlining these costs, and outlining how they have been arrived at. Please also ensure that you include this additional amount as part of your budget.

If your proposal involves working with animals, you must provide a copy of your *Animal Welfare Protection Policies and Procedures*.

For applications involving children and young people under the age of eighteen

The Arts Council requires all individuals and organisations providing services (e.g. cultural, recreational, educational) to children and young people under the age of eighteen to have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place. When making an application, you **must** indicate in section 1 of the application form whether or not your proposal is relevant to this age group.

- If you answer 'Yes' to this question in the application form and your application is successful, as a condition of funding you will be required to confirm and demonstrate that you have suitable child-protection policies and procedures in place.
- If successful, you will be required to complete the Arts Council's Child Protection and Welfare Quality Assurance Self-audit at <https://childprotection.artscouncil.ie/>. Please visit www.tusla.ie for more information on Children First.
- You will also be required to update your details in the Profile Information tab in your Online Services account (do this by going to the 'Update your account' section).

For applications involving vulnerable adults

When making an application, you **must** indicate in section 1 of the application form whether or not your proposal involves work with or for vulnerable persons. If you answer 'Yes' to this question, you are indicating that you will work with, or present work to, this cohort as part of your proposal, and that you acknowledge that you have familiarised yourself with and adhere to the *National Policy & Procedures on Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse* (see [here](#)).

Please note that you may be asked to provide more evidence of adherence to these policies should your application be successful.

If you do not submit the required supporting material, your application will be deemed ineligible.

Format for supporting material

All supporting material for the Authored Works Award must be submitted online, and all items should be uploaded as separate files and labelled as outlined in section 2.3 below. Please follow these guidelines for moving-image/video files.

Moving-image/video files	For any moving-image/video files you submit, you must provide relevant contextual information. This might include details of the piece, when and where it was presented, thematic/general comments, the names of artists, and how the work was financed (e.g. award, self-financed). Extracts should be no more than ten minutes long, and no more than three extracts should be submitted. Include all contextual information for moving-image/video files in a clearly labelled text file.
---------------------------------	--

1.8 Eligibility

Your application will be deemed **ineligible**, and will not go any further in the process, if any of the following is true:

1. You miss the application deadline.
2. You do not submit a completed application form through Online Services (an application form attached as a supporting document will not be accepted).
3. You fail to complete all of the sections in the application form relevant to your proposal.
4. You cannot apply as set out in sections 1.2 to 1.4 above.
5. You apply for an amount of funding greater than the maximum amount allowed for within the award to which you are applying, as set out in section 1.5 above (except where you are applying for an additional amount to cover access costs).
6. You apply for an activity or purpose that you cannot apply for, as set out in section 1.6 above.
7. You fail to provide all mandatory supporting materials, as set out in section 1.7 above.
8. Your application is better suited to another funding programme offered by the Arts Council or by another funding agency (in this case we will redirect you to the more appropriate funding opportunity).

Note: in the event that your application is ruled ineligible, it will not be assessed, and you will be able to apply again with the same proposal in future funding rounds.

2. How to make your application

2.1 Register with the Arts Council's Online Services

All applications must be made through the Arts Council's Online Services; applications made in any other way (by post, fax or email) will not be accepted.

You must have an Online Services account to make an application. If you do not already have an Online Services account, sign up by filling out the registration form here:

<https://onlineservices.artscouncil.ie/register.aspx>.

Within five working days you will be emailed a unique ARN (Artist Reference Number) and password that you can use to sign in to Online Services.

Requirements for using Online Services

Note: you will need to use a computer/laptop to submit your application. Our Online Services website does not work on phones or tablets.

Your computer and Internet browser will need to meet the following requirements to use Online Services successfully:

PC Windows 7 operating system or a newer version of Windows *with* browser versions: Microsoft Edge (v.94) or Firefox (v.27) or Chrome (v.33), or a newer version of any of these browsers.

Mac Mac OS X v10.5 Leopard or a newer version of Mac operating system *with* browser versions: Safari (v.3.1) or Firefox (v.27) or Chrome (v.32) or Microsoft Edge (v.94), or a newer version of any of these browsers.

Note: if Safari 11 prevents the upload of documents, use a newer version of Safari or use a different browser such as Firefox, Chrome or Microsoft Edge.

Note: you will also need to have Microsoft Word or OpenOffice Writer installed to complete the application form itself. OpenOffice Writer is free software that can be downloaded here: <https://www.openoffice.org>.

OpenOffice Users

Please refer to our video *Using OpenOffice to download, complete and upload the application form* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iT9Xxgmg0Eo>

You **must** use OpenOffice Writer version 4.0.1 or earlier. More recent versions of OpenOffice Writer than 4.0.1 have changed how our application forms appear when they are submitted through Online Services.

Important notes for Apple Mac users

- Note the section in the YouTube video (at 1 min. 20 secs; link provided above) that deals with the issue of downloading version 4.0.1 on Macs with the operating system Mac OS Mojave or an earlier version installed.

- You cannot download OpenOffice 4.0.1 onto a Mac with the operating system Mac OS Catalina. If your Mac has this operating system or a newer version installed, you will have to download and use OpenOffice version 4.1.9 or newer.

If you cannot meet, or do not understand, any of these requirements, please contact us for advice as far as possible in advance of the deadline.

Give yourself enough time to complete the application

You should become familiar with the Online Services website well in advance of the deadline and in advance of preparing an application. It is likely that there will be heavy traffic on the site on the final afternoon of the closing date. You should prepare your application and submit it well in advance of the deadline.

Upload times can be much longer than download times. It may take longer than you think to upload your supporting materials.

Getting technical support

If you need technical support while making an online application, you can contact the Arts Council by emailing onlineservices@artscouncil.ie or by phoning 01 6180200/01 6180243. We recommend you report any technical issues with us well in advance of the deadline. Please provide a contact phone number and make sure that you are available to receive a return call from us.

We deal with queries on a first-come first-served basis.

Please note that there is often a high volume of calls as the deadline approaches and that technical-support calls received after 2.00pm on the closing date may not be resolved before the deadline.

2.2 Fill in the application form

If you have not already done so, download the application form for the award you wish to apply for. The application form is a Microsoft Word/OpenOffice Writer document that you fill in offline (on your own computer). The application form includes guidance on how to fill in each of its sections.

Note: the application form is formatted in such a way that the Arts Council can extract information from the form for assessment purposes. It is **very important** that you type inside the grey boxes in the form, and that you do not delete them and/or type outside them. If you do this, the form will not upload properly.

2.3 Prepare any supporting material required for the application

You are required to include supporting material with your application. For example, this might include a CV or samples of your current work – e.g. text, video, images or sound recordings (see section **1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?**).

You must submit all such supporting material online – if necessary, you should scan or save material in electronic format.

Acceptable file formats

The following table lists file formats for supporting material.

File type	File extension
text files	.rtf/.doc/.docx/.txt
image files	.jpg/.gif/.tiff/.png
sound files	.wav/.mp3/.m4a
video files	.avi/.mov/.mp4
spreadsheets	.xls/.xlsx
Adobe Acrobat Reader files	.pdf

For convenience, gather together all the files you need in an accessible location on your computer.

Submitting URL links

Note: links to streaming platforms may be used to provide samples of work. Stand-alone supporting material such as CVs and letters of support, etc. must be uploaded as separate documents with your application.

Instead of uploading material directly, you may provide links to material hosted on streaming platforms that do not limit access through financial subscription. To do this, copy the URL (the full address of where your material is hosted) into a Microsoft Word/OpenOffice Writer or PDF document and upload it as a weblink-supporting document.

While not an exclusive list, examples of acceptable sharing platforms would be YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud, Bandcamp.

Please note that we will not accept links to the following sources:

- File-sharing sites – e.g. Google Drive, OneDrive
- Social-media platforms – e.g. Meta, Instagram
- Your personal website

Note: assessors will only view materials in the URL links that you provide. It is important that you check that any links in the document work **and** that they bring the viewer to the correct source to be able to access and view your supporting material.

Please do not flag your material as ‘private’ as it will not be accessible for the assessment. Change the settings on your video to ‘unlisted’ if you do not wish the application supporting material on your YouTube channel to be publicly viewable.

Naming files appropriately

Give all files that you intend to upload filenames that make it clear what they contain or represent – i.e. it should be clear from the filename whether the document is a CV, a sample text or a review of previous work.

Please submit supporting documents in separate, appropriately named files.

Good filenames for an applicant called Jack Russell	russelljack Architecture Project application.doc
	russelljack performance clip.mp4
	russelljack Architecture Project budget template round 2.xls
	russelljack youtube link.doc

The total combined limit for all supporting material uploaded with a single application is **40MB**.

2.4 Make your application online

To make your application online, you go through four main stages. Click **Save draft** at the end of each stage. You can come back to your application and revise it at any time before you finally submit it.

2.4.1 Choose a funding programme and download application form

To start a new application, click the **Make an application** button on your home page, and follow the prompts to choose the funding programme you wish to apply for and to give your application a unique reference by which to identify it. At this stage you can also download the application form (if you have not already done so).

2.4.2 Request funding amount

At this stage specify the expenditure and income related to your proposal, and the amount of funding you are requesting. The **Amount requested** should equal the **Total expenditure** minus the **Total income**. The final figures you enter here should be the same as those you enter in section 3 of the application form and in your detailed budget.

2.4.3 Upload application form and supporting material

Follow the prompts to upload your completed application form, CV/CVs, detailed budget and any other required supporting material (see section **1.7 What supporting material must you submit with your application?**). You do not have to upload everything at the same time. You can save your application as a draft and come back to it later.

Note: if you have completed your application form as a **.docx** file and you are confident that your application form is filled in correctly (including typing inside the grey fields) but Online Services displays a message saying 'Cannot upload form', please try saving it as a **.doc** file and uploading it again.

2.4.4 Submit application

When you are satisfied that you have uploaded everything you need to support your application and have ticked the declaration, click **Submit**.

Once submitted, your application cannot be amended. Do not submit your application until you are completely satisfied.

You should receive two emails. The first will be issued immediately your application is received by the Arts Council. The second may arrive a few minutes later and will contain your application number, which will be used in all correspondence relating to this application. **Note:** it is important that you contact onlineservices@artscouncil.ie if you **do not** receive the second confirmation email containing the application number.

3. Processing and assessment of applications

3.1 Overview

The Arts Council considers all applications, makes decisions and communicates these to applicants in accordance with set procedures. The aim is to ensure that the system for making awards is fair and transparent.

3.2 The assessment process

All applications received are processed by the Arts Council as follows:

-
- 1 After you submit your application, you should receive two emails:
 - The first will be sent immediately and will acknowledge your application
 - The second should arrive a few minutes later. It will contain your application number, which we will use in all correspondence about your application.

Note: these emails only mean that our online system recognises that you have submitted an application. They do not mean that your application is eligible for funding.

If you do not receive the email with your application number, contact onlineservices@artscouncil.ie

-
- 2 Your application is checked for eligibility. Please see section **1.8 Eligibility** above.
 - 3 Adviser(s) and/or staff make a written assessment of the application based on the criteria for assessment set out in section 3.3 below.
 - 4 Adviser(s) and/or staff recommend an application as shortlisted or not shortlisted.
 - 5 All applicants are notified in writing of the shortlist decisions. Shortlisted applicants are invited to discuss the detail of their proposals with the selection panel.
 - 6 Decisions are communicated in writing to applicants.
 - 7 Decisions are noted by Council.
-

Time frame

The Arts Council endeavours to assess applications as quickly as possible, but the volume of applications and the rigorous assessment process means that it will take up to twelve weeks from closing date to decision.

3.3 Criteria for the assessment of applications

Applications are assessed in a competitive context and with consideration of the application form and the supporting materials submitted. All applications are assessed in the context of the Arts Council's policy on film (http://www.artscouncil.ie/Film_Policy_2018) against criteria of **a)** artistic merit, **b)** how they meet the objectives and priorities of the award, and **c)** feasibility. Each of these criteria is described in turn.

While applicants may select other artforms/arts practices as being relevant to their application, the application will be assessed by the team responsible for the chosen primary

artform, and which may, in certain instances, ask for a secondary assessment from another team.

Artistic merit

The assessment of artistic merit focuses on the applicant and on those involved in the project as well as the nature of the proposed arts activity and includes consideration of:

- The artistic quality of the project proposal.
- The track record of the applicant and the artistic personnel involved in the project as evidenced by their CVs and other supporting materials submitted
- The potential of the applicant and the artistic personnel as evidenced in the application form and the supporting materials submitted
- The ambition, originality and competency demonstrated in the proposal

Meeting the objectives and priorities of the award

Applications are assessed on how well they meet the objectives and priorities of the award (see section **1.1 Objectives and priorities of the award**).

Feasibility

The assessment of feasibility considers the extent to which the applicant demonstrates capacity to deliver the proposed activity. This includes consideration of:

- The track record of personnel involved in managing, administering and delivering the project
- The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the provision of equitable conditions and remuneration for participating artists
- The demonstrable ability of the team to complete and deliver the project with the available funds (within a total maximum production budget of €230,000) and within the timeframe allowed (i.e. at an agreed date in 2025)
- The proposed budget
- The proposed timetable or schedule.

3.4 Selection panel

The purpose of the selection panel is to discuss the detail of the proposals with each of the shortlisted applicants and to allow for a diversity of expert views to inform the decision-making process. The Authored Works Award selection panel comprises representatives from the Arts Council, the Irish Film Institute and up to two external peer assessors.

The selection panel will be chaired by an Arts Council member acting in a non-voting capacity. Panellists have access to all shortlisted applications and associated materials prior to the day of the meeting. After meeting the shortlisted applicants to discuss their proposals, the panel reviews, discusses and scores the shortlisted applications. Following this, applications are ranked by score. The Arts Council intends to fund one proposal following this competitive process.

Scoring process

The panel is asked to score applications according to the following system:

- A – Must Fund (10 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have fully met the criteria for the award and merits funding on that basis, to the amount requested where possible.

- B – Should Fund (8 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have met the criteria to an extent sufficient to merit funding should resources allow.
- C – Could Fund (5 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have met the criteria, but to a lesser extent within the competitive context than other applications.
- D – Not a Priority (2 points): this means that, in the view of the panel member, the application is deemed to have not met the criteria to an extent sufficient to merit funding.

Declaration of interest

In order to ensure fairness and equity in decision-making, a panel member must declare an interest where they have a close personal or professional link with the applicant or are linked in any way with the application. An 'interest' is either 'pecuniary' or 'non-pecuniary' (e.g. familial relationships, personal partnerships, or formal or informal business partnerships, etc.).

The interest must be declared as soon as the panellist becomes aware of it. This may be at the point when they are approached to sit on the panel (if the 'interest' is known at that stage) or following receipt of the list of applicants. Where an interest is declared, the panellist will not receive papers relating to that applicant and will be required to leave the room when the specific application is being reviewed. Where this situation arises, the chair will vote in lieu of the panellist.

In some instances a panellist may not realise that a conflict of interest exists until they receive and review the panel papers. In such instances the panellist must alert an Arts Council staff member or the panel chair as soon as they become aware that a conflict may exist.

In the event of two panellists declaring a conflict of interest for the same application, the chair will be part of the decision-making process for that specific application.

If the nominated panel chair has a conflict of interest they must declare it in writing in advance of the meeting as soon as they become aware of it. In this instance the head of team will chair the discussion on the conflicted application.

3.5 Outcome of applications

All applicants are informed in writing about the outcome of their application.

If your application is successful, you will be sent a letter of offer detailing the amount of funding you have been awarded and the terms and conditions of the award. You will also be told how to go about drawing down your award.

The Arts Council receives a large volume of applications, and demand for funding always exceeds the available resources. If your application is not successful, you can request feedback from Arts Council staff. Eligibility and compliance with application procedures alone do not guarantee receipt of an award.

Unsuccessful applicants are not eligible to apply for another Arts Council award to undertake the same activity. If the Arts Council feels that the proposed activity would have been more suited to a different award programme, an exception may be made. In such circumstance you will be informed in writing.

Appeals

Applicants may appeal against a funding decision on the basis of an alleged infringement or unfair application of, or deviation from, the Arts Council's published procedures. If you feel that the Arts Council's procedures have not been followed, please see the appeals process at http://www.artscouncil.ie/en/fundInfo/funding_appeals.aspx or contact the Arts Council for a copy of the appeals-process information sheet.