**Westmeath Arts Office – Arts Act Grant 2017**

**Application for grant aid under Section 6 of the Arts Act 2003**

**GUIDELINES**

**Context and criteria**

Westmeath County Council offers grant aid to **amateur, community or voluntary individual, groups or organisations,** which in the opinion of the authority, will stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts. In this Act the arts are defined as painting, sculpture, architecture, music, film, drama, dance, literature, design in industry and the fine arts and applied arts generally. Decisions will be weighed in favour of those projects that address the objectives outlined in the Council’s Arts Plan. As well as objectives pertaining to the furtherance of the development of artists, the arts and increasing access and participation in the arts, applicants should outline where their projects address broader areas such as equality of access, social inclusion, multiculturalism etc. in their structure.

**Application Procedures and Guidelines**

* Please note that this scheme is for **individuals or organisations in the amateur, voluntary or community arts sector**
* Recipients of grant aid must acknowledge the sponsorship role of Westmeath County Council in all publicity material including brochures, posters programmes and websites.
* The amount available to any one applicant will typically be between €200 and €400, but can vary depending on response to the scheme.
* The Council reserves the right itself to promote such arts activity as it deems appropriate
* Assistance will be given **only in respect of specific future activities occurring in the year 2017** and not towards retrospective arts activity
* Please note this scheme is competitive and not all applicants may be successful
* Complete applications must be signed and received by the Westmeath County Council Arts Office by Friday April 14th, 2017 at 5 p.m.
* Late applications will not be accepted
* Due to the volume of applications the arts office is not able to offer individual feedback, however an overview of feedback from the panel will be provided
* Applicants should keep a copy of their application for future reference, the arts office is not in a position to process requests for photocopies of applicant’s own application
* All questions must be addressed and completed *(even if it is to state that the question is not relevant)*
* All requested accompanying material must be submitted
* Applicants must be located within or provide their services/activities within Westmeath County Council’s administrative area
* Applicants must be registered with Westmeath Public Participation Network, if not registered, please contact Community & Enterprise Section to register.
* The 2017 activity / project in respect of which funding is sought must be artistic in nature
* Applicants must demonstrate observance of standard codes of practice in general welfare issues - such as, child-first guidelines, health and safety regulations, insurance and equal opportunities
* Applicant must have procedures in place for the documentation and evaluation of the work
* Applications must be clearly completed and signed. Please note the arts office cannot contact applicants to amend incomplete applications
* Completed applications to be send by hard copy **ONLY** to:

Arts Grant Applications

Westmeath Arts Office - County Buildings, Mount Street, Mullingar, Co Westmeath