**Westmeath Arts Office – 2017**

**Strategic Projects – Arts Development Plan**

**GUIDELINES**

**Context**

As part of its development of the arts, Westmeath County Arts Office invites applications from artists for funding to deliver new projects of high quality and impact during 2017 which will enhance and complement the strategic development of the arts in the County. This call is open to professional individual artists and artist groups from Westmeath across all arts disciplines. Projects should add significant value to arts practice and the widest possible participation to the arts in County Westmeath as well as supporting the strategic objectives as outlined in the current plan. The project should also have an element that will ensure the widest possible engagement and participation.

Reflecting the balance of other elements of its programme, the Arts Office would particularly welcome strong applications in film, youth initiatives, architecture, and dance.

The Arts Office is particularly interested to hear from practitioners whose projects generate new perspectives and voices within the cultural life of the county. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis, subject to funding availability.

**Application Procedures and Guidelines**

* A professional individual artist or group/collective may apply for a maximum of 1 Strategic project.
* The amounts available to any one project will typically be from €500 to €2000, due to limited funds available.
* Applications will be accepted and reviewed regularly on a rolling basis, subject to availability of funds.
* All requested accompanying material must be submitted.
* Applicants or the specified project activity must be located within Westmeath County Council’s administrative area.
* The 2017 project in respect of which funding is sought must be artistic in nature.
* Applicants must demonstrate efforts to secure income from other sources.
* 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.
* Applicants must have procedures in place for the documentation and evaluation of the work.
* Project activity/spend must commence within the year of application.
* Applications must be clearly completed and signed. Please note the arts office cannot contact applicants to amend incomplete applications.
* Recipients of grant aid must acknowledge the supporting role of Westmeath County Council in all publicity material including brochures, posters programmes and websites and these should be sent to the arts office address.
* Please note this scheme is competitive and not all applications will be successful.
* The arts office is not able to offer individual feedback.
* 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 applicants own application.
* All questions must be addressed and completed *(even if it is to state that the question is not relevant).*
* Completed applications to be send by hard copy **ONLY** to:

Arts Office – Strategic Projects

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