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| **UPSTART | GUIDELINES** |

UPST**ART** is an initiative of Mayo County Council’s Arts Service which aims to:

1. Incentivise quality artistic collaborations between groups/ people with disabilities, artists, arts venues and organisations within County Mayo.
2. Support opportunities for people with disabilities to develop arts projects in celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3rd December.

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| **WHO CAN APPLY** |

* Venues that have participated in Mayo County council’s Arts and Disability Programme.
* Artists who have participated in Disability Equality Training. (The professional artist’s C.V should show evidence of experience of working with people with disabilities).
* Emerging individual artists with disabilities.
* Groups of people with disabilities interested in working with a particular artist and/or venue to develop a project.

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| **WHAT YOU CAN APPLY FOR** |

* Projects that focus on creative work by people with disabilities.
* Projects that are additional to a groups’ or organisations’ regular programme of work.
* Projects that involve the development of new work in a new art-form.
* Projects that engage people with disabilities as artists, participants or audience members.
* An event to celebrate arts and disability.
* A workshop or a series of workshops in the lead up to December 3rd with a local group of people with disabilities. (This should be facilitated by a professional artist with experience of working with people with disabilities.)
* A performance for an invited audience of a work in progress/ event (film, theatre, dance, music, choral or other event) by a group of people with disabilities, which has come about through collaboration with a professional artist/artist.
* A mainstream performance that will be made accessible for an audience of people with disabilities. (i.e. audio described/ sign language interpreted/ text captioned etc)
* A project/performance/exhibition by emerging artist(s) with disabilities, or a group of people with disabilities who have produced work with a professional artist.
* A closed event for a specific group of people with disabilities.

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| **WHAT YOU CANNOT APPLY FOR** |

* Projects that have already taken place.
* Projects that operate in contexts outside the arts
* Projects developed as tools for Advocacy, occupational or therapy purposes.
* Projects developed as tools for wellbeing or life skills development.
* Projects which are primarily based in health-care contexts and are focused on health gain.
* Projects that are part of an ongoing arts programme.
* Projects which take place outside the county.
* Projects/Events already funded by Mayo County Council Arts Service

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| **HOW WILL AN APPLICATION BE ASSESSED?** |

Applications will be assessed by an external panel with experience in the area of arts and disability and the following criteria will be used:

**Note**: because of the competitive nature and context of the grant, limited funding and the large number of applicants, it may not be possible to recommend funding for all eligible applicants. Eligibility and compliance with criteria for assessment alone does not guarantee that you will receive grant funding.

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|  | **Criteria for Assessment** |  |
| 1 | Artistic Quality of the proposed activity/event | 15 |
| 2 | Track record of the applicant | 15 |
| 3 | The benefit of the support to applicant | 15 |
| 4 | The extent to which People with Disabilities are involved in the planning/development of the project/event. | 15 |
| 5 | Matching resources | 15 |

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|  | **Scoring System** |  |
| Excellent | Application addresses criteria and provides all the information and evidence needed. There are no concerns. | 5 |
| Very Good | Application addresses relevant aspects of the criteria and provides all the information and evidence needed. There are minor concerns. | 4 |
| Good | The application addresses the criteria well and provides clear information on nearly all the evidence needed. Some improvements could be made. | 3 |
| Fair | The application broadly addresses the criterion and provides some relevant information with some details lacking. There are some weaknesses. | 2 |
| Weak | The application fails to properly addresses the criterion but does not give enough relevant information. There are many weaknesses. | 1 |
| Very Week | The application fails to address the criterion or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information. | 0 |

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| **WILL AN UPSTART AWARD COVER THE TOTAL COST OF A PROJECT?** |

No, the scheme aims to maximise the resources for artistic engagement by people with disabilities. Therefore, matched funding/resources or in-kind support is essential and forms part of the assessment criteria.

Awards, in the main, range from €500 to €2000.

We may consider awarding additional funding to an application, but only under exceptional circumstances and if budget allows.

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| **IN WHAT FORMAT SHOULD AN APPLICATION BE SUBMITTED** |

All applications should be submitted as MS Word documents via email and contain a fully completed application form and all supporting documentation. E.G. details of artist(s) involved and their C. V’s.

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| **REPORTING** |

You will be required to submit a short report at the end of your project. The arts Service will issue a template for this. The report will include space to describe the work undertaken on foot of an award and an outline of how the award benefitted your work.

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| **SUBMISSION PROCESS** |

Applications are assessed by external experts. It is in your interest to ensure that all information requested is provided.

To facilitate assessment, it is preferable to type your application form. If this is not possible, please use a black biro and write in BLOCK CAPITALS. Please ensure that all supporting documentation files are titled clearly i.e. JoeBloggsCV

Supporting material can only be accepted in ms word or pdf formats. Material submitted on alternative platforms will not be accepted e.g. G-Drive/Google Docs etc.

Submissions will be presented to the selection panel in digital format.

**Application forms must be in MS Word format and titled ‘UPSTART’ and should be submitted to:**

**MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS SERVICE,**

**MAYO HOUSE,**

**MONEEN,**

**CASTLEBAR,**

**CO. MAYO,**

**F23 N504**

**T: 094 9064363**

**E:** [**doconnor@mayococo.ie**](mailto:doconnor@mayococo.ie)

**W:** [**www.mayo.ie/arts**](http://www.mayo.ie/arts)

**Closing Date 5pm, Friday, 14 February 2025.**

Applications submitted after this time will not be accepted.

For queries please contact Damien O’Connor, Arts and disability coordinator, Mayo County Council Arts Service:

T: 094-9064363 E: [doconnor@mayococo.ie](mailto:doconnor@mayococo.ie).

**Mayo County Council will acknowledge receipt of your application**

***Supported by Mayo County Council & the Arts Council***