


dublin *fringe* festival



ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS GUIDE

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS AT DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL



We understand that making art is difficult and Dublin Fringe Festival aims to support artists as much as we can in the creation of work. With that in mind each year, Dublin Fringe Festival enhances the existing support through a series of schemes, partnerships and initiatives that respond to the Application Pool and ensure that artists are supported in a multitude of ways.

Some of the supports below are major schemes that co-fund the creation of new work, while others are packages designed to provide unique interventions and bolster projects. You can express interest/apply for these schemes as part of your main Dublin Fringe Festival application. If you are considering applying for the Break New Ground Bursary or Make Space for Art in particular we would recommend setting up a meeting with the Dublin Fringe Festival Programming Team ahead of applying. [Find the link on the How to Apply page on our website or in the Application Guide.](#)

Please note, the deadline for all of these additional supports is the same as the deadline for the general Dublin Fringe Festival 2026 Applications – Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 2pm GMT.



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Break New Ground Bursary

Break New Ground is a creation bursary for live performance in Dublin Fringe Festival 2026. This bursary will support an artist **who has not led a project at Dublin Fringe Festival before**, towards developing an ambitious new idea for live performance. We want you to take a bet on your own big ideas and we know doing that can require individual mentorship and financial support.

This bursary will provide tailored support towards **the creation of a project for Dublin Fringe Festival 2026 with a €4750 bursary, a €750 mentorship allocation and in-kind supports to the value of €2000** including one-on-one industry mentoring, network-building, studio space, financial advice and a set of supports from the Dublin Fringe Festival team. This year one bursary will be awarded.

We want to support the development of bold work, radical art-forms and ambitious ideas. We're searching for artists who want to make work that blends disciplines; who want to expand their practice to be more experimental or more theatrical depending on their current practice. We champion interdisciplinarity and support projects and approaches that otherwise might fall through the cracks. We encourage new artists, and artists working professionally in one genre that want to try something new to apply. We're especially interested in supporting artists whose backgrounds are in interdisciplinary work, visual art, art for young audiences (under 18), circus & aerial, music, cabaret, drag and club.

Previous Recipients:

- 2025 – Mai Ishikawa, Constriction
- 2024 – Bill Harris, ACCESSOR
- 2023 – Kate Dunne, SI(t)áinte and Alessandra Azeviche, Terra

Please note: until now Break New Ground has been a separate application process. For 2026, we are rolling the Break New Ground Application Process into the overall Festival Application process to minimise the amount of applications artists need to make. If you're interested in making an application and have any questions not covered here, [please set up a meeting with our Programming Team here.](#)



Break New Ground Bursary

Criteria for Break New Ground are as follows:

- A contemporary, consequent, and singular idea for your 2026 Dublin Fringe show/event
- Your project must either be interdisciplinary, challenging to form, or in a new genre to your primary practice (ie spoken word poet expanding into theatre-making)
- The lead artist must not have led a project with Dublin Fringe Festival before (you may have worked on projects at the Festival as a collaborator/team member)
- Demonstration of how the project will be radical in form, thematic approach, or audience engagement
- A clear vision for how this bursary will support the creation of your project
- Skill, potential and experience as a contemporary performance maker
- We particularly welcome applications from artists who are typically under-represented in the arts community

Who should apply?

- Artists who want to create their first full-length, completed live performance work
- Artists working in an inter/multidisciplinary medium OR who are working professionally in one artform and want to venture into a new one
- Artists with an experimental practice and a fresh approach to performance medium and style
- Irish artists or artists based in Ireland
- Practicing artists who are not currently in full-time education

Please note: Artists who have been the lead artist of a show at a past edition of Dublin Fringe Festival are not eligible to apply for this bursary.

This bursary is for the creation of a live performance, including areas such as:

- Writing, composing, creating, devising, etc.
- Artist Fees
- Mentorship
- Set/Lighting/AV/Costume Costs (if relevant)
- Rehearsal Costs
- Show/Event marketing materials

Break New Ground Bursary

What you get from Dublin Fringe Festival:

- €4,250 bursary to support the creation of the work
- €750 mentorship allocation to connect and work with a mentor
- 2 weeks in FRINGE LAB Studio 1
- 1 week in our FRINGE LAB private office space, the Workstation
- Mentorship sessions with the Dublin Fringe team covering practical (budgeting, application advice, fundraising, marketing) and artistic (show and practice development)
- Use of FRINGE LAB equipment
- Presentation of the completed work at Dublin Fringe Festival 2026

What we'll ask of bursary recipients:

- Meet with Dublin Fringe Festival's Programming Team (Festival Director, Bee Sparks, Programme Manager, Katherine Murphy and Programme Assistant Cliona Malin) to talk about your brilliant idea, as well as other departments as needed
- Work with the Katherine and Cliona to identify your potential mentor
- Present the finished work at Dublin Fringe Festival 2026

To apply, you will need:

- To complete the 2026 Dublin Fringe Festival Application Form and submit all mandatory Supporting Documents
- Fill out the following questions in the Break New Ground section of the Additional Supports Section of the application, including:
 - a. Tick the box confirming you are eligible.
 - b. Tell us how this Bursary will support and enable the creation of the work in this application.
 - c. Tell us how this application fits the criteria for the Break New Ground Bursary as outlined above.

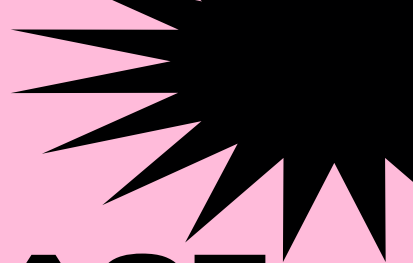


MAKE SPACE FOR ART FUND

- Dublin Fringe Festival has designated a fund of €5000 to support shows/events made for unconventional performance spaces in Dublin. This fund can cover any associated venue/site costs.
- Artists responding to our open call with projects made for unusual, off-road and non-traditional performance sites can apply for the Make Space for Art Fund to help make their ideas a reality. We have introduced this fund in response to the changing city, and the new challenges and financial barriers to making art outside of traditional performance spaces in Dublin.
- When we say “an unconventional performance space”, this means anywhere that isn’t purpose built for live performance. For example, theatres, cinemas and galleries are not eligible, but most other places are. In the past, this fund has supported work presented in pubs, boxing rings, outdoors, on boats, shopfronts, basement apartments, handball alleys, and swimming pools.
- Eligible costs associated with working in a non-traditional space could include: space rental, security costs, production equipment hire, employer liability insurance, fire safety costs, electricity generators, rain cover, permit processing fees – amongst others.

Eligibility Criteria:

You must be presenting work in an unconventional performance space, and need the fund to cover the related costs. You can apply for a maximum of €3000 as here is a total fund of €5000 available and it is intended that at least two shows/events can be supported.



MAKE SPACE FOR ART FUND

To apply, you will need:

- To complete the 2026 Dublin Fringe Festival Application Form and submit all mandatory Supporting Documents
- Fill out three questions in the Make Space for Art in the Additional Supports Section of the application, including:
 1. Tick the box confirming you are eligible
 2. Enter the exact amount you need
 3. Answer a question about why you are eligible and what venue-related costs will be covered under this Fund.

Box Office Pre-Payment Scheme

The Box Office Prepayment Scheme is designed to support shows and events facing financial barriers to access, particularly those who rely on box office income to fund the creation of their work. This scheme was first introduced in 2025, where it supported 4 shows in the creation process. It is a pre-payment of your Box Office Split, up to 50% of your selling capacity, paid upon signing your contract with the Festival.

This is a prepayment and will be deducted during the Box Office reconciliation at the end of the Festival. Should a show/event sell under the 50% on which this prepayment was based they will not be penalised. Shows that sell over their 50% capacity, will receive the balance of their box office reconciliation after the Festival. In 2025, this scheme was used to cover costs such as design, fees, and accommodation for non-Dublin based artists.

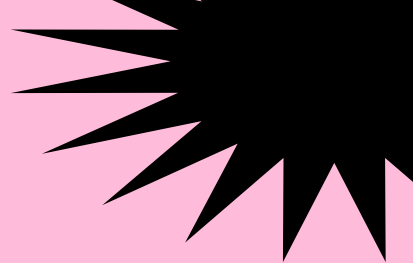
Eligibility Criteria:

You must:

- Need Box Office income to fund the creation of your show/event.
- Be applying to present in a Dublin Fringe Festival Assigned Venue (and not in an Own Venue)
- Have submitted a Draft Budget showing where you identify what costs you will cover with this scheme

To apply, you will need:

- To complete the 2026 Dublin Fringe Festival Application Form and submit all mandatory Supporting Documents
- Fill out two questions section of the Additional Supports Section of the application, including:
 1. Tick the box confirming you are eligible.
 2. Answer an additional question outlining the how they money provided in the Scheme will enable the creation of the work in your application (i.e. why a prepayment helps your cashflow to fund the creation of your project)



FLEXIBLE FUNDING POT

Dublin Fringe has a small, flexible funding pot for shows/events that need specific support to cover something slight but important for your show in amounts from €200 to €800. In the past, this has included things like: rigging support for aerial work, piano rental, technical support for a show, and contribution towards set design/dressing. This is a small and flexible pot which we try to utilise to make as many projects viable as possible – so we do ask you to tell us exactly how much you need.

Eligibility Criteria:

There are no eligibility criteria here – anyone can apply for this funding pot. However, we do prioritise applications where the show/event might be impossible without this support.

To apply, you will need:

- To complete the 2026 Dublin Fringe Festival Application Form and submit all mandatory Supporting Documents
- Fill out two questions in the Flexible Funding Pot portion of the Additional Supports Section of the application, including:
 1. The exact amount you need
 2. A short answer stating whether the show/event can go ahead without the fund.

Please note: Should you be programmed and not receive the Flexible Funding Pot support, we will reach out to ask if you can go ahead.



Mentorships & Partnerships

Every year, the Programming Team responds to the needs of the shows/events programmed in the Festival by identifying mentorship through partners and from industry experts. Over the last few years this has included:



Big Ambitions: providing dramaturgical supports towards the development of excellent new plays from the world-renowned Fishamble: The New Play Company



Pan Pan Platform: connecting experienced makers and producers in Pan Pan Theatre with exciting early career Dublin Fringe Festival artists.



Growth | Support | Practice

Dublin Fringe Festival X field:arts: supporting emerging Creative Producers presenting shows/events in the Festival



Residency Space from Circus Factory: offering access to Circus Factory's state-of-the-art facilities in Cork.



Design and Production Support from Gorilla Design: practical support and know-how from one of Ireland's most creative event design companies.



One-to-one artistic and production mentorship from industry experts

Eligibility Criteria:

Each scheme has its own eligibility, if you are interested in being considered across the board for mentorship opportunities please let us know and we will contact you if you have been selected for a specific strand based on your eligibility.

To express interest in these opportunities, you will need:

1. To complete the 2026 Dublin Fringe Festival Application Form and submit all mandatory Supporting Documents
2. Tick the box expressing your interest in being considered for all of the opportunities above, as well as any mentorship schemes that are new in 2026.