

# dublin *fringe* festival



## APPLICATION GUIDE 2026


**EVERYTHING YOU  
NEED TO KNOW...**

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# ABOUT DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL

**In 2026 our Festival Dates are 5th – 20th September**



Dublin Fringe Festival is a curated, multidisciplinary arts festival and a year-round artist support organisation. We seek out and present contemporary, playful and provocative new work made by Irish and international artists of vision in an annual celebration each September all over the city.

Dublin Fringe Festival creates a framework for artistic risk, offering opportunities for artists to challenge and invigorate their practice and extend the possibilities of what art can be. It's a platform for emerging and established artists to showcase their work and offers artists at every stage of their career a space to push boundaries and to innovate.

The festival stimulates curiosity and creates memorable encounters that enthrall and embolden audiences, welcoming fans and first-timers alike every September.



# GET TO KNOW THE TEAM

Get to know the faces behind the emails:



**BEE SPARKS**

Festival Director



**ELISSAVET CHATZINOTA**

Executive Director



**JENNIFER BRESLIN**

Head Of Marketing



**KATHERINE MURPHY**

Programme Manager



**SARAH TIMMINS**

Production Manager



**CLÍONA MALIN**

Programme Assistant



**CONLETH TEEVAN**

PR & Publicity



**VANESSA BYRNE**

Studio Hires Coordinator

## HOW TO CONTACT US:

Phone: 01 670 6106

[fringefest.com](http://fringefest.com)

[programming@fringefest.com](mailto:programming@fringefest.com)

Sycamore Building, Sycamore Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

**If you have questions** regarding the application and how to make one be sure to attend one of our information sessions, and (if you question isn't answered there), you can sign up to our application workshops (offered online and in person). More details on supports offered are in Application Support section below.

# Dublin Fringe Festival 2026

## Curatorial Call Out : framework for joy / foundation for resistance.

Dublin Fringe Festival has always been a space for the irrepressible, the iridescent, the wild. This has never been more essential. Times are hard, safety and shelter are not presumed, and life for those on the fringes is ever more precarious. Within this turbulence, we are asking for art that is vital, art that provides a **framework for joy and a foundation for resistance**. We're inviting you to explore the space between protest and play.



We champion disruption as creation, defiance as delight, art that's impolite in opposition. Where you create the vision, Dublin Fringe Festival provides safe passage for trailblazing ideas, contemporary conversations, and collaborative catharsis.

Artists, we see you as architects of potential futures – building upon the foundations of resistance to create a framework for ethical, communal joy. Joy is our resilience builder, our community connector, our reminder of purpose. In resistance, we seek shelter, find each other and forge alternative paths forward. For some – it's a choice, for others – it's fundamental. Both are messy, queer, and political – difficult to attain, impossible to fake, and hard to hold. We are inviting you to join us in taking over the city this September, resisting joyfully and celebrating without simplicity.

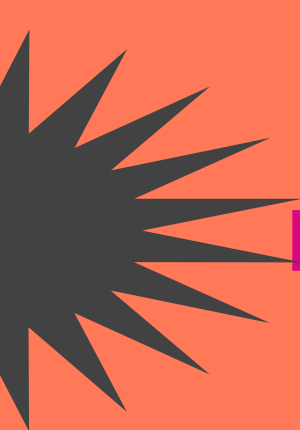
We want work that is gritty, shimmering and gleeful, glistening with sweat, bursting with feral wildness and tender intimacies. Show us:

- Dance floors that pulse with the beat of collective communion
- Performances that offer shocking sensations and quiet serenity
- Art that refuses and reclaims with DIY projects mapping grassroots-led futures
- Comedy infused with *rí-rá* and rigorous silliness
- Defiant structures to paint colour on our changing skyline, with ecology and architecture as canvas and collaborator
- Access points to complex ideas and civil disobedience as artistic practice
- Projects that howl grief as catharsis and visions reminding us better is always possible
- Spaces for rest, regeneration and risk



**Artists, as in all things, you show us the way. This is your foundation and your framework. You are the architects – now, go build.**





# APPLYING FOR DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL

Unlike many other fringe festivals internationally, Dublin Fringe Festival is a fully curated festival. This means that you apply, the Programming Team read and assess your application, and then select the work to be part of the Festival. Each year, we open a call for applications which receives hundreds of responses. We seek compelling and daring work that invigorates, excites and challenges our audiences.

## How do you apply to be in Dublin Fringe Festival?

You can apply to be a part of Dublin Fringe by submitting an application form. You can access our [2026 Application Form here](#). It is a detailed form so we suggest reading through the whole form fully - either on Jotform or on the Word Document on the How to Apply Page. You are able to save drafts of it as you work through, so don't worry if it takes you a couple of sessions.

We advise you to get your application in early – don't wait until the last day to submit! In the two days running up to the deadline there is often a strain on our server due to the high level of traffic. This means that some people have problems getting the application submitted on time. Save yourself the stress and get it in early!

### **TIMELINE:**

Applications open: Monday 1st December 2025.

Applications close: 2pm GMT on Thursday 22nd January 2026.

***Late applications will not be accepted.***

## HOW DO I KNOW THAT YOU RECEIVED MY APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS?

When you submit your application, the website will show you a page that says 'Thank you! Your submission has been received'. You will then receive an email that includes a copy of your application for your records. You will receive this email automatically from [noreply@jotform.com](mailto:noreply@jotform.com) (check your spam and junk folders too).

Each of your supporting documents will be listed beside its relevant field. If you are submitting more than one application, make sure you get the confirmation email each time.

## HOW DO YOU ASSESS APPLICATIONS?

The Dublin Fringe Festival Programming Team assess all applications – this means reading your application form, as well as all of your supporting documents. This Festival Director (Bee Sparks) and Programme Manager (Katherine Murphy) read applications with support from the Programming Assistant (Cliona Malin). Each application is considered and discussed in detail in a series of meetings until the final programme is signed off. For more detail on how the Curatorial Process works, you can read the Curation and Selection Process section of the Guide.



## WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED?

We will communicate all programming decisions by the mid-April. Please keep in mind, due to the complex nature of programming so many shows/events, we sometimes need to follow up with some individual additional questions or communicate decisions on a phased basis. If we need to take this approach, we will let you know.



## DO YOU HAVE ACCESSIBLE VERSIONS OF THE APPLICATION GUIDE AND FORM?

We have compiled accessible versions of all our application documents [here](#).

If you need any guidance or assistance in this area, please do not hesitate to contact our Programme Assistant, [Cliona](#).

## SOME OF THE QUESTIONS ON THE FORM DON'T APPLY TO MY IDEA?

We programme lots of different kinds of work, so the form needs to reflect all possible ideas.

Some of the questions on the form may not necessarily be relevant to you or your project and if this is the case, we ask you to be patient and include your information as best you can. If something is not applicable – just write that!

## CAN I POST MY APPLICATION TO YOU?

No, we cannot accept postal applications. You can submit your application through our [online form here](#).

Contact our Programme Assistant [Cliona](#) if for accessibility reasons you cannot submit via the form by the application deadline.

We will also accept applications as Word Documents that can be emailed to [programming@fringefest.com](mailto:programming@fringefest.com), alongside the supporting materials we ask for.





## CAN I APPEAL DECISIONS?

No, programming decisions are final.

We have rigorous frameworks for decision making and work on a very tight timeline for the delivery of the Festival. Once decisions are made, contracts are being drawn up and the work on the Festival brochure has already begun.

## APPLICATION SUPPORT

**We know the application is long so we are here to help in many ways:**

### **1. We are hosting two Application Information Workshops:**

These hour-long workshops will be followed by a 30-minute Q&A. They will answer all of your questions about the festival, how to apply, what we're looking for and anything else we or you can think of. If you can't make it, we will post the recording of the Zoom to the How to Apply Page on our website, as well as an FAQ document based on the questions that come up in both meetings.

- Your [Online via Zoom on Thursday 4th December 2025, at 6.00pm](#) - [click here to register](#)
- [In-person at Dublin Fringe Festival HQ on Thursday 8th January 2026, at 6.00pm](#) - [click here to register](#)

## 2. Elevenses!

Join us on Friday 28th November at 11am in Fringe HQ for our monthly drop-in coffee morning. Hosted by Programme Manager Katherine Murphy and Programme Assistant Clíona Malin, we'll be talking all things Fringe applications, so this Elevenses is the perfect opportunity to pop in and pick our brains with any questions you may have! Drop by at 11am and give the buzzer a ring to be let in. Please note, Dublin Fringe offices are accessed by stairs only.

## 3. Application Meetings

The Programming Team will be running application clinics in December 2025 and January 2026. Please use the links below to schedule your meeting, you can select in person or online. We recommend these meetings should you have questions about your application or project, we are here to advise on the application process, questions around potential venues, budgeting, and anything else that comes to mind. Please come with specific questions for discussion – we will ask you to input this when signing up.


You can sign up to meet with:

- Katherine Murphy, Programme Manager – [Click here to book](#)
- Bee Sparks, Festival Director – [Click here to book](#)
- Clíona Malin, Programme Assistant – [Click here to book](#)
- Dafe Orugbo, former Associate Artist – [Click here to book](#)

We have a lot of requests for meetings so please make sure to be in touch with us sooner rather than later. The closer we get to the application deadline, the less available time we have to offer.

### **A Note on the Christmas Break:**

**Please note, Dublin Fringe Festival closes Friday 12th December and reopens on Monday 5th January 2026. While we are closed, you will have access to the recording of the Application Workshop and the FAQ Document on our website. For all emailed queries over Christmas, we commit to responding to them by Thursday 8th January – two weeks before applications close.**



## **And the question we are always asked – what makes a good application?**

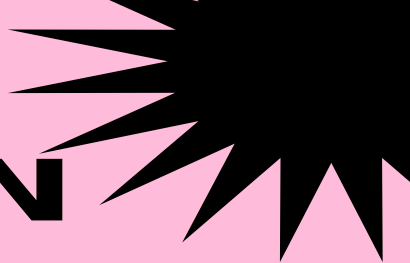
**01.**

Include as much detail as you can about your project, your team and where you are at in the process of making it: it helps us hugely. If you don't have all of the answers right now, that's ok too! We are a festival of new work; most people are applying with something they haven't made yet. Tell us how you plan to get there.

**02.** Be adventurous with your application and thorough with the details. We're looking for solid artistic ideas and exciting concepts.

**03.** Don't try to write what you think we want to hear – authenticity is key! So be authentic about what your idea is, where you are at with presenting it, and what your ambition is.

**04.** Dublin Fringe Festival is a festival of new work that speaks to the contemporary moment – we want to know why it's urgent to present this project this year – for your audiences, you as an artist or for the city.



# CURATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

- **Radical and unapologetic work.** Risk it. Your most fierce, most courageous projects can find a home at Dublin Fringe Festival.
- **A focus on the now and the next.** We're a festival of firsts supporting new thought, innovative practice and contemporary, fresh ideas.
- **Form-busting, genre-defying, game-changing approaches to art-making.** Make something that's never been seen before.
- **Rigour.** We value your expertise, and your craft gets our pulses racing. Less clickbait, more long read – put your skills on show.
- **Voices that are reflective of Ireland right now.** Dublin Fringe Festival programmes work reflecting the contemporary moment and champions authentic voices.
- **Work for our Young Radicals Programme.** We present work specifically created for and/or by young people (defined as people under the age of 18) that is bold and pushes boundaries. Past Festival brochures can be a great place to explore the type of work we present – check them out here on Issu.

## WHAT KIND OF WORK DOES DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL NOT PROGRAMME?

In general, Dublin Fringe Festival does not programme:

- Work that has already been seen by a Dublin audience in its proposed form.
- Adaptations or traditional re-tellings of pre-existing texts or compositions. We occasionally present radical reimaginations of canon works.
- Live streams of traditional performances or feature/short films.



## **WE ASSESS APPLICATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- We programme new work and ideas, with a focus on projects that take risks and experiment with form.
- We look for themes and ideas that engage with the context of our city and society and work that imagines ways Dublin and Ireland can connect to broader conversations.
- As a multidisciplinary arts festival, we focus on ensuring representation of artforms within the Festival.
- We carefully consider the originality and quality of each proposal and we take the potential or track record of each artist/company into consideration.
- We prioritise work that has not been previously seen by Dublin audiences, and, in the case of digital work, we will prioritise projects that will be the Irish premiere.
- In the case of applications from international artists and companies, we look for work that will fit the Irish context while providing provocations. We are most interested in presenting work whose style or content is not already available to Dublin audiences.
- We consider the practical viability of each application, in terms of how developed ideas are, whether the project is realistically achievable on the indicated budget, and on the basis of venue availability.
- Applications are chosen based on how they fit within the curated programme as a whole – meaning we consider balance and cohesion across programmed work.

## **DOES DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL COMMISSION WORK?**

A small number of projects are commissioned by the Festival Director to participate, and in these circumstances Dublin Fringe Festival offers commissioning and presentation supports. Generally, these commissions are for work that could not be presented in the Festival without this support and are usually by invitation.

**If you wish to speak to the Festival Director about a potential commission, please email [Bee Sparks](#) before mid-January.**



## CAN DUBLIN FRINGE PRODUCE MY SHOW/EVENT?

No – the Festival is too large for us to produce much work within it. In the majority of cases, companies who are programmed into the Festival through our application system are self-funded and produce their own work. The festival is the presenter of the work and supports programmed artists via subsidised venue rental, marketing, FRINGE LAB facilities, centralised box office, production assistance, and a whole host of skill development workshops and seminars; however the direct costs of production are covered by the artists/companies.

***Remember – you PRODUCE the work, and  
Dublin Fringe Festival PRESENTS the work.***

## DOES DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME INTERNATIONAL WORK?

Each year we programme a small selection of international work that fits the festival's curatorial vision. We love hosting international artists at the Festival and sharing the new perspectives and experiences their work offers with Dublin audiences.

### **We programme international work in two ways:**

**Direct Invite:** International work that has been seen by the Festival Director and is directly invited to present – this doesn't come through this application process and is usually selected the year before.

**Through the Application Pool:** International companies and artists can submit an application and may be programmed into the Festival based on the strength and suitability of the work as judged from their application.

**Please note:** If you are programmed through the open call, you will need to cover your own costs and account for these costs in your budget (incl. travel, accommodation, visas, etc.)

# ARTFORMS IN DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL



**Dublin Fringe Festival is a multidisciplinary festival invested in the exploration and expansion of artform – we present contemporary live work existing in any medium. We've included some core artforms below, if none of these fit, don't worry! We love hearing about unique, unconventional ideas.**

We are most excited by interdisciplinary projects that defy categorisation and we seek work that expands beyond the 'boundaries' of it's primary artform.

In 2026 we're particularly seeking applications for site specific projects, visual art, art for young audiences (under 18), circus & aerial, music, cabaret & drag and club.

**Take a look at the list below to see the core artforms we programme:**

- AERIAL | CIRCUS | PHYSICAL THEATRE
- CABARET
- CLUB NIGHTS
- COMEDY
- DIGITAL ART
- DANCE
- DIY FORMS – ZINES, RADIO, ETC
- DRAG
- INTERDISCIPLINARY
- IMMERSIVE WORK
- INSTALLATION
- LIVE ART
- MUSIC
- SITE SPECIFIC WORK
- SPOKEN WORD | POETRY
- THEATRE
- VISUAL ART
- WORK FOR KIDS & UNDER 18'S THROUGHOUT  
YOUNG RADICALS PROGRAMME

# GETTING TO KNOW THE APPLICATION FORM

**The form is long, we know this, and we appreciate you taking the time to fill it out. Each section holds information we need to make informed decisions about your work.**

The form is built to cover a lot – different artforms and styles of presentation of shows/events. If there is not applicable to your application – just say that! We will reach out to you for more information if things are unclear or we need more information

**Sections 1-8 are mostly mandatory**, although not every question is mandatory within the section. Check for an Asterix symbol \* throughout the form to see the mandatory questions.

The form is divided into the following sections for you to respond to:

- **Section 1:** Basic Information about Your Show/Event
- **Section 2:** Contact Details
- **Section 3:** What You Are Proposing
- **Section 4:** Programming & Venue Information
- **Section 5:** Production & Technical Information
- **Section 6:** Marketing & Audience
- **Section 7:** Accessibility – For You and Your Audience – Voluntary Questions
- **Section 8:** Supporting Documents
- **Section 9:** Additional Support for Shows/Events – Voluntary Questions
- **Section 10:** About You – Voluntary Questions

Make sure to read the notes underneath the questions on the form as we often include prompts and samples of the answers to assist you in answering the question.

The form has some questions that contain conditional logic. This means, if you answer a certain way, it will bring you to the next relevant question.

### **SECTION 1: Basic Information about Your Show/Event.**

This section is simple – asking you for some information about your show/event- like title, who it's presented by, and where you're based.

### **SECTION 2: Contact Details.**

This section is also really simple – it's just your contact information. Please do pay special attention to spelling in this section as it's really important that we have an accurate email and phone number for you to communicate the decision from the Programming Team.

### **SECTION 3: What You Are Proposing.**

This is the most important section of the form and it's also the longest. First, we ask you about if your show/event is new and what artform(s) are included in your proposal. Then we ask you to tell us about your idea in 500 words, what happens in the show/event (also in 500 words), where you're at in making the work (250 words), and why this work is relevant to Dublin Fringe Festival (200 words). Finally, we ask about your team (both confirmed and yet to be confirmed), any funding you might have secured or applied for, if your work fits within the Young Radicals Programme, and if you have support in making the work.

### **SECTION 4: Programming and Venue Information.**

This section assists the Programming Team in making informed decisions about how and where to programme your work within the Festival. We ask you about your preferred venue, number of performances, duration of show/event, availability, and anything else about logistics that we need to know for programming. We ask that you list all venues that could be suitable for your work in priority order here, as venue scheduling for 80 shows is a complicated matrix.

## **DO I HAVE TO FIND A VENUE FOR MY EVENT?**

There are two venue models for Dublin Fringe Festival:

- Dublin Fringe Festival Assigned Venue
- Own Venue

Take a look at the breakdown on the follow page to see some of the key differences between an Own Venue and a Dublin Fringe Festival Assigned Venue so that you can make an informed decision about what is best for your show/event.

If any of the below feels intimidating with regards to the Own Venue model, please be aware that the Fringe Team will support you through advice and meetings.

	OWN VENUE	FRINGE ASSIGNED VENUE
<b>Date and Time Slot</b>	Led by you – as long as the dates are within the Festival, the Fringe Team is happy that audiences will attend at the time(s) suggested, it fits within the overall programme balance, and there are no significant clashes with other work	Some flexibility, but it's minimal as it has a knock-on effect with other shows/events as Fringe venues are shared
<b>Technician Support</b>	Advisory support from DFF's Production Team, but no on-the-ground support from a Festival Venue Technician	On-the-ground support from a Festival Venue Technician who is there to support your work, but you must still provide your own crew and operator
<b>Technical Equipment</b>	Totally up to you, with some access to Fringe's stock (which is limited and on a first-come first-served basis)	Access to a Fringe Rig for lighting (meaning a basic lighting rig, where you would need to bring special lights), and basic PA systems in most venues ( <a href="#">please see Tech Specs for full details</a> )
<b>Front of House Staff</b>	You will need an appointed Venue Supervisor to oversee Front of House, including supervising Fringe's Volunteers on the ground and providing a 1-page volunteer briefing document in advance	Staffed by a combination of Fringe Volunteers and venue Front of House Staff
<b>Turnarounds</b>	Totally under your control – and if you have control, you might not have one!	Most shows have a turnaround with an average time of 25 – 30 mins per show/event
<b>Contract/Agreement</b>	You will need to agree with and contract your own venue, and DFF may ask for proof, you will handle all venue liaisons	Your contract is with Fringe, we have the contract with the venue and handle all venue liaisons
<b>Capacity</b>	You set your own capacity, with sign off from Fringe's Production Team	Fringe sets the capacity in line with the venue, and other shows/events sharing the space. 18





# DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL ASSIGNED VENUE

Dublin Fringe Festival has a list of potential venues that we may use for the festival. If you apply for the festival and select the Dublin Fringe Festival Assigned Venue model that means you will be programmed into one of the venues that we have rented out. It's very important for you to think about what kind of space your work needs, the layout of the space and what the ideal audience size/relationship is etc.

We would advise reading all the potential Dublin Fringe Festival venues and their tech specs before you make your selection. Click [here](#) to see our potential venue list and their specs **here** (these specs are to be used as a guide only and are created from the most up to date information we have currently. They are subject to change).

If your work is programmed, you're not guaranteed to get the venue you request, but it really helps to show what your ideal venue slots might look like when we're putting together the schedule for the Festival Programme. You can prioritise your list so that we know your first preference. Please clarify the space, run length etc. that you would like.

It is important to note that Dublin Fringe Festival Venues are almost always shared venues (so you will have other shows using the space before/after you). The average duration for Dublin Fringe shows tends to be approximately 60 minutes, so keep that in mind when considering venue – if you would like a show with a significantly longer or shorter duration please flag at the point of application. Please note that Dublin Fringe Festival venues are competitive, with particular need for certain spaces each year. Do think broadly about where your event can take place and outline at least a couple of options in your application.

For the application process, we have included a likely list of venues who are our frequent collaborators and partners. This is not a final list of venues for our 2026 Festival, as we are led by the work in the Applications to finalise this list. Please note, for work in certain larger venues (for instance, Project Arts Centre: Space Upstairs, or the Abbey Theatre: Peacock Stage), we often prioritise funded work due to the scale of the space.

## **HOW IT WORKS IF YOU'RE IN A DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL ASSIGNED VENUE:**

- Dublin Fringe Festival covers the full cost of venue rental and the technical equipment that comes with that space (so you have no upfront venue rental cost, unless you have particular technical requirements).
- You are provided with a production schedule and a performance schedule from Dublin Fringe Festival.
- Dublin Fringe Festival provides Venue Technicians to supervise the turnarounds in the shared venue, but you must have your own crew to actually do the turnaround and run your show.
- Dublin Fringe Festival team manages Box Office, advance audience information and front of house, in partnership with our venues.
- You receive a 75% split on your box office (less a €2 booking fee) - further information on this can be found in the Financial Deal section of this document.

# DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL OWN VENUE MODEL

If you apply for the festival and select the Own Venue model that means you are applying with a venue you have sourced yourself and you will be fully responsible for. Some people come to us with venues in mind that they have already sourced or are planning to source. These tend to be site-specific and/or unusual venues, or some projects simply cannot work as part of a shared venue schedule. We can give advice on this if you need support to find and source a space. Dublin Fringe Festival have good relationships with public sites in the city, as well as various other locations, so may be able to help you source your Own Venue.

You do not need a confirmed venue to apply – you can apply without a definite confirmation, and update in February/March. **It is unlikely that we will programme work that has no strong leads for a venue space unless you speak to us in advance and outline your plan – please do set up a meeting if this is the case.**

Please be aware that Dublin Fringe Festival offers the Make Space For Art Fund to support events made for unconventional performance spaces in Dublin. You can see more in the Additional Supports Guide on the [How to Apply Page](#) on our website.

## HOW IT WORKS IF YOU'RE IN YOUR OWN VENUE:

This includes outdoor, site specific and remote art experiences where the location/ site is managed and hosted by you (e.g. online platforms, in the post, on the radio, etc). If any of the below feels daunting, please know that Dublin Fringe Festival have presented shows in all kinds locations (bathrooms, treetops, rivers warehouses) and will be here to advise and support at every point.

Please read the own venue model information sheet and resource list [Here](#). If you are looking at various possibilities or types of spaces, in the document above you can find a list of some alternative or offsite venues which have been used in the past or are on our radar.

## **HOW IT WORKS IF YOU'RE IN YOUR OWN VENUE (cont):**

- You cover your own venue rental and most technical equipment required (we do have a small technical rider for offsite work so we may be able to provide some equipment). The rental/hosting deal that you make with the venue is your own responsibility.
- You cover any security and personnel costs for this venue/space.
- Dublin Fringe Festival team manages box office, advance audience information and supports you with front of house volunteers (by request). You are expected to have a dedicated person to brief and supervise the volunteer team onsite, as well as providing a volunteer briefing document in advance.
- As the Festival does not subsidise your venue rental and you cover these upfront costs, you receive 90% of the box office split (less a €2 booking fee). You can see a full breakdown of how this works in the Finances and Budgeting section below.
- You propose your own performance/event schedule that needs to be agreed with Dublin Fringe Festival in advance.
- You manage your own production schedule and all staffing (Dublin Fringe Festival can offer advice on these if required).
- Dublin Fringe Festival production team will visit your space and offer support and advice where possible or required.

## **REMEMBER**

**You'll need to secure all relevant permissions to use the space for a public event. If you receive an invitation to be part of Dublin Fringe's programme, we'll need to see a signed agreement with the site-specific venue within two weeks of that offer. This means you need to have begun a conversation and gotten initial interest/permission before April 2026.**

## **WHAT IF I WANT TO DO SOMETHING IN AN UNUSUAL SPACE, LIKE A CAFÉ OR MY HOUSE OR IN THE STREET?**

Anything is possible! Let us know what you want to do and why. Make sure it's clear in your application that you have thought through at least some of the practicalities of that particular space. Some questions we have needed to ask in the past:

- Is the owner of the café really willing to close some or all of the space for you? How do you get the audience to your house?
- Do you need access to electricity?
- Do you need a strong wifi connection?
- Will you need to think about security, and the costs that entails?

And make sure it's clear **WHY** you are choosing that space – how central is this element to your overall concept, does it deepen the work, or simply add novelty?

## **OTHER EXAMPLES OF OWN VENUES CAN INCLUDE:**

**SITE SPECIFIC VENUES:** This is work created with a specific location in mind – and we love it at Dublin Fringe Festival. We have deep experience in site-specific work, and our production team can offer ideas, advice, and support to help make it happen in the space you have in mind.

**OUTDOOR VENUES:** From built stages to walking tours or self-guided audio experiences, outdoor formats are wide open. Working outside (especially in Irish weather) brings its own challenges, but Dublin Fringe Festival's production team can support you with equipment and know-how. We'll handle permits and insurance for all official venues – but please note: some unofficial spaces and squats may not be possible.

**REMOTE ART EXPERIENCES:** We define these as works where artists and audiences share time, but not space. We're into ideas that meet audiences where they are – at home, in the post, on a phone, or their nearest patch of grass. If your show can be experienced from a distance, we want it to feel close. Keep spectators active, engaged, and captivated throughout.



## SECTION 5: PRODUCTION AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

This section helps our Programming and Production teams understand what your show needs, so we can figure out where and how it fits in the festival. We'll ask about:

- Whether you have a technical contact
- Your tech requirements (lighting, sound, AV, etc.)
- Get-in, tech, and turnaround times (don't worry — these are defined in the form)
- Stage/set dimensions (if relevant)

If you've selected a Dublin Fringe Festival Assigned Venue, click [here](#) to check the **Venue Tech Specs**. If you've selected Own Venue, review the Own Venue Info document before filling this out

## SECTION 6: MARKETING AND AUDIENCE

Tell us how you plan to sell your show or event at the festival. We'll support you, but with a significant number of shows in the mix, we want to know how you'll stand out. This section helps us understand your experience, your audience, your socials, and how much support you might need. It doesn't affect selection, but it gets us ready to hit the ground running if your work is programmed. Take a look at the Marketing Section in this guide before you fill it in.

## SECTION 7: ACCESSIBILITY – FOR YOU AND FOR YOUR AUDIENCE

This section will let us know if there are ways that you or your team need support through the Festival process, and accessibility you features you might want to include in your work for your audience. This section is not mandatory.

### Artists and Access

We strive to support the accessibility needs of all artists throughout the festival process. As you plan your participation, we ask you to consider the accessibility needs of your team and let us know if there is support we can assist in providing to ensure this is considered.

### Audience Access Features

We believe in creating an inclusive festival experience for all audience members. Each year we offer a range of accessibility features to programmed shows, including ISL (Irish Sign Language), audio description (AC), touch tours, and relaxed performances. These accessibility features are usually best matched with shows/events that are finalised early in the summer as we need to provide the relevant materials to the access consultants then.

## SECTION 8: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

These are the materials we need to fully assess your application. Some are required, others are optional – and you're welcome to include anything extra that helps bring your idea to life. Don't feel limited to traditional formats you may upload to a funding body here, some of our favourites have been the most creative.

### WHAT ARE THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND WHAT ARE THEY FOR?

Supporting documents help bring your proposal to life.

When you fill out the online application, you'll be asked to upload materials that give us a clearer picture of your idea, your past work, or documentation of the show if it already exists. They help us understand not just what you want to make – but how you make.

**FOR NEW WORK:** For work that is not yet made, but will be for September 2026, you will need to have the following: If your show/event is a new piece of work, the following documentation is mandatory:

1. **Short Biographies/CVS of the team**
2. **Draft budget showing income and expenditure.** This will give us a sense of the scale of the event you're proposing. You can access a template budget [here](#).
3. **Show/Event Artistic Samples.** For this we ask for a script, outline or summary. This could be a draft script, a video of a work in progress showing, storyboard, or an expanded description of what happens in the show/event. It's OK for these to be in draft stage– just flag that within the document. The more we understand the fullness of your idea, the easier it is for us to make a decision. **If your work is a piece of new writing you must submit a draft script.** Think of this as anything to help us in understanding the concept outlined in the application.

Additionally, it can be useful to see the following where relevant, but they are not mandatory:

1. **Design Ideas** (if applicable)
2. **Link to Video Materials** from this work or a previous work (preferably with easily identifiable timestamps to watch from and to). For this show/event, this could be from a work-in-progress showings or rehearsal. For previous work, it would be an earlier produced show/event.
3. **Images of your previous work** or of a work in progress of this show/event

## SECTION 8: Supporting Documents (cont.)

### FOR EXISTING WORK:

If your show/event has been performed before, the following documentation is mandatory:

1. **Images:** from production, publicity images, etc.
2. **Links to Video Materials:** Preferably with easily identifiable timestamps to watch from and to. Please save these into one word document.
3. **Technical Documentation:** this could include a tech rider, lighting plan, technical specifications, crew needs, etc.
4. **Set and Building Information:** this could include scale drawings of set/build, an outline of your plans, necessary equipment transportation, etc.
5. **Risk Assessment**
6. **Any other relevant information** not outlined above

### DO I REALLY NEED TO INCLUDE THEM?

Yes — supporting documents are essential. We can't properly assess your application without them. If they're missing, your application will be considered incomplete.

### WHAT KIND OF BUDGET DO YOU NEED TO SEE?

We want to see that you've seriously considered the costs involved in making your event happen, the money coming in *and going out*.

Use our sample production budget as a template, you'll find it linked [here](#). Be sure to open all the tabs to check your ticket pricing and capacity projections. Don't stress if you're not Excel-fluent. We've included clear, step-by-step instructions to guide you through it.

## SECTION 9: ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR SHOW/EVENTS – VOLUNTARY QUESTIONS

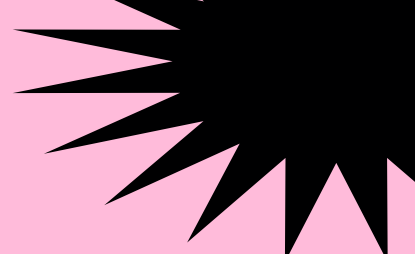
This section is not mandatory. It's a chance for you to express interest in a number of supports/schemes/partnerships we run in addition to our general Festival offer. The full details of these are in the Additional Supports Document on the How to Apply Page, click [here](#) to download, but a brief overview is offered below. These include:

- **Break New Ground Bursary:** This is a €5500 bursary which supports an artist who has not led a project at Dublin Fringe Festival before towards developing an ambitious new idea for live performance in 2026. For this you tick a box, and answer two questions.
- **Make Space for Art:** This is a fund of €5000 to support events made for unconventional performance spaces in Dublin and can cover any associated venue/site costs (max €3000). You will be asked the exact amount, as well as why you're eligible and what venue costs you will spend the money on.
- **Box Office Pre-Payment Scheme:** This supports artists facing barriers to funding, particularly those who rely on future Box Office income to fund the creation of their work. It means that Dublin Fringe Festival will pre-pay a portion of your projected Box Office following signature of your contract. You tick a box and answer a short question about how the money will enable the creation of the work
- **Flexible Funding Pot:** this is a small, flexible funding pot for shows/events that need specific support to cover something slight but important for your show in amounts from 200e to 800e. You will be asked the exact amount you need, and if the work can happen without it.
- **Mentorships and Partnerships:** This is an opportunity to express interest in being selected for mentorship opportunities throughout the Festival process. This is reactive to the Festival Artists, but generally includes: Fishamble: The New Play Company, Pan Pan Theatre, field: arts, and specific mentorship from artists identified by the Programming Team through the Festival process.

## SECTION 10: ABOUT YOU – VOLUNTARY QUESTIONS

This section is not mandatory and is treated with the utmost confidentiality. It's a chance for you to let us know a little about your own demographics – these answers will not have any bearing on your application. In line with our commitment to Equality and Diversity, they are there to help us to understand more about the people who apply to Dublin Fringe Festival. This data helps us to increase our knowledge as we know we need to do more to reach specific demographics. We ask about where you live, your gender, your ethnicity and heritage, your age, social class, sexuality, and whether you identify as having a disability.





# FUNDING AND FINANCES

## THE FINANCIAL DEAL

By having your work programmed as part of Dublin Fringe Festival, we operate on a Box Office Split Model. What this means is that you agree to a split of your box office income with the festival. There are two main types of Box Office split with the Festival and this is determined by which venue option you select:

- Dublin Fringe Festival Assigned Venue
- Own Venue (For more information see the section on VENUES above)

You'll be asked to indicate which of our financial models works best for your project in your application form, and your preferred financial deal option should be reflected in your budget. The included budget template [here](#) will likely be helpful when preparing your this, and on the second tab you will find a template where we have included the how to determine your Box Office Split.

### **1. Dublin Fringe Festival Assigned Venue – 75% to you and 25% to us**

If you are programmed in a Dublin Fringe Festival Assigned Venue, the box office split is 75:25 in your favour, so you will receive 75% of your box office income and Dublin Fringe Festival will receive 25% (after a booking fee deduction of €2 per ticket).

#### EXAMPLE:

Ticket Price: €18 | Booking Fee per ticket: €2 | Ticket Price Minus Booking Fee: €16

Your 75% = €12 | Our 25% = €4





## **2. Own Venue – 90% to you and 10% to us**

If you are programmed with your Own Venue, the box office split is 90:10 in your favour, so you will receive 90% of your box office income and Dublin Fringe Festival will receive 10% (after a booking fee deduction of €2 per ticket).

EXAMPLE:

Ticket Price: €18 | Booking Fee per ticket: €2 | Ticket Price Minus

Booking Fee: €16

Your 90% = €16.20 | Our 25% = €1.80

## **TICKET PRICE**

Dublin Fringe Festival decides on the ticket price for each event in consultation with the artist/company. When budgeting at this point, it's useful to look at previous ticket prices in similar venues/types of work in past programmes to use as a guide.

The average price of a ticket for Dublin Fringe Festival is €15 – €18, and in 2025 the most expensive tickets were €25. Keep in mind – if your work is part of our Young Radicals Programme, these tickets tend to be less expensive (circa €8- €12) or if you work is remote these tickets can come with additional costs (i.e. for postage).

## **BOOKING FEE**

Before the box office split takes place, a €2 booking fee is deducted for each ticket. This booking fee pays for the box office services the festival provides for every show.

## **DO I NEED TO PAY A REGISTRATION FEE TO BE PART OF THE FESTIVAL?**

No. We are delighted to say that we are one of the few Fringe Festivals worldwide who are in a position to not charge a registration fee for events selected to be part of the festival.





## WHERE CAN I GET FUNDING FOR MY WORK?

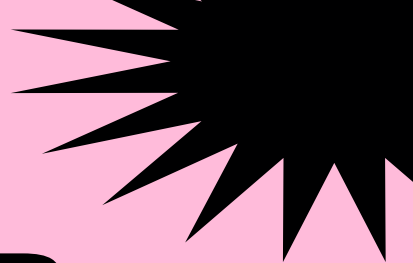
You will probably need to look for funding from various sources, rather than planning to get one lump sum that will cover everything. Funding is available from the Arts Council of Ireland, and various local bodies such as your local city or county council. Visit their websites to find out what is available and how to apply – make note of the application deadlines.

Depending on your project, there may be other organisations that you could approach for assistance – national cultural organisations such as the Goethe Institut, Instituto Cervantes, Alliance Française, National Embassies, etc. Other arts and community organisations can also be brought onside as partners to help you. They may not be in a position to offer you money but might be able to help with support in kind or in exchange.

Presenting companies often crowdfund in the run up to their production through GoFundMe or fundraise by hosting events (table quiz, work-in-progress showing, etc.), selling advertising space in their show programme or searching for company sponsorship. The fundraising campaigns need to conclude before tickets go on sale for your show. Think as laterally as possible!

## DO I NEED INSURANCE?

In a word – yes. If you are programmed, Dublin Fringe will cover the cost of Public Liability to cover your audience. However, you must look after the Employers Liability Insurance. In association with Brady Insurance, we offer a discounted rate to programmed artists/companies, which is communicated over the Summer. For the past few years this cost has varied from €150 – €170 for standard shows.



# FUNDING AND FINANCES

## WHAT COSTS WILL I BE FACING IF I'M PROGRAMMED?

Here are some of the costs that you may come across depending on the type and size of the event that you are planning:

1. Fees
2. Studio/rehearsal space rental (we can offer up to 40 hours of studio space in FRINGE LAB but no company will get a full rehearsal period due to demand)
3. Venue rental if you are not in a Dublin Fringe venue
4. Marketing costs
5. Set/Costume/AV/Lighting/Design Costs
6. Technical and transport costs
7. Travel, accommodation and per diems (if not Dublin based)
8. Employer's Liability Insurance – this covers you and the people you are working with
9. Health and Safety or security expenses

For a more comprehensive breakdown of what these costs could entail, we suggest looking at the sample Budget provided **here**.



# FESTIVAL SUPPORTS



## **ALL WORK PROGRAMMED IN THE FESTIVAL RECEIVES THE FOLLOWING FROM DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL:**

1. Ongoing advice and support in the run up to the festival from the Festival Team
2. Online and centralised box office system, with access to sales reports
3. Dedicated box office and/or front of house staff/volunteers at every event
4. Opportunities to avail of subsidised and/or free rehearsal space through Fringe LAB
5. Production advice and assistance (though you still need to have your own technical team)
6. Marketing and PR advice and assistance
7. Inclusion in the printed brochure, Festival website and in general Festival marketing and PR campaigns and materials
8. Access to our Willing Workers List for people to help on your event
9. Access to our Digs list for cheaper accommodation in Dublin
10. Access to a Dropbox folder filled with resources to use (sample budgets, contract templates, guides to health and safety, IMRO, etc.)
11. Access to the facilities and equipment available at FRINGE LAB and from our production team (if available and requested early)
12. Artistic and dramaturgical advice and support from the Programming Team



# MARKETING AND PR

This section of the form is about understanding how you plan to connect with your audience and get bums on seats, or feet on dancefloors, etc

It's not about polished strategy or fancy plans – we just need to get a sense of how ready you are to shout about your work and what audience you're trying to reach.

## If your show is selected, here's what that means

Things move fast once you're programmed. From the moment you're accepted, the clock starts ticking. Within **3 weeks** we'll need to supply our comms team with:

- **Blurb:** that's what appears in the programme, on the website, and everywhere else.
- **One Line pitch:** Your shows elevator pitch.
- **Show image:** that's the hook. It's how audiences will recognise you and decide whether to click buy now.
- **A dedicated marketing contact** for your show

These materials are non-negotiable – they're how we package your show to sell tickets.

## And here's how we'll support you:

- One-to-one check-ins with the Marketing & PR team
- Feedback on copy and imagery
- A full Marketing & PR Guide
- Artist-focused workshops (social media, blurbs, audience strategy)
- A toolkit of templates and resources

## Festival Visibility:

Your show will be featured in:

- The official festival brochure (print and digital)
- The Dublin Fringe Festival website
- Our social media platforms



## MARKETING AND PR

### What We Ask in the Application Form

To help us plan ahead, the form will ask for:

**Do you have experience marketing a show or event?** This won't affect your selection. We ask just to understand how much support you might need, whether this is your first time, or your fifteenth.

**Any links to your website or social media?** Include any online presence you'll be using to promote the show. This could be your own, or your group/collective's.

**A sample blurb for your show:** We want to get a sense of how you'll speak to your audience, and what you think are the biggest selling points of your show. No need for perfection — this is a starting point. You'll refine it later with our help if selected.

### Who's your target audience — and how will you reach them?

Be specific. Think about:

- Who the show is for (age, interests, communities)
- Where you'll reach them (socials, posters, networks, partners)

Here's an example response: "My audience is adults aged 25–40 with an interest in contemporary dance, experimental performance and visual art. I plan to reach them through IG ads targeted at dance fans, posterage at Project/Dance House, and outreach to dance networks."



# **VOLUNTEERS AND WILLING WORKERS**

## **I'LL NEED VOLUNTEERS. CAN YOU HELP?**

Yes! We have a Volunteer Coordinator who recruits and schedules volunteers for the weeks of the festival. They are mainly scheduled for Front of House, ushering, and helping you manage your audience.

You can also contact the Volunteer Coordinator with specific requests, but this needs to be done early as the scheduling needs to be finalised well in advance of the Festival. Requests need to be made early in the summer to ensure they can be fulfilled.



## **I'LL NEED SOMEONE TO WORK ON MY SHOW AS A DESIGNER / PRODUCER / DIRECTOR / TECHNICIAN ETC. CAN FRINGE HELP?**

Yes! We have a database, called the Willing Workers List, available to all companies and artists programmed in the Festival. The list is of people who want to work on Dublin Fringe Festival events in a backstage capacity - it doesn't include performers. This list will be circulated to Programmed Artists in their Artist Guide shortly after being programmed. All agreements are made between the artist and the Willing Worker and do not involve the Festival in any way. Some offer time for free, while other need payment for their work, so take this into consideration when applying.

# dublin *fringe* festival



## A HUGE THANK YOU

Phew – we know that’s a lot of information but reading this will greatly help you to make the best application possible. And thank you for reading this far – the Festival is only made possible with the ideas, passion and applications of our Artists, and we are so excited to read your application.

If you have any further questions about putting an event/show on in Dublin Fringe Festival you can contact our Programme Manager, [Katherine Murphy](#).