



NYCI Artist in Youth Work Residency and Development Scheme

Definitions and Criteria

A. In order to be eligible for funding under this scheme a youth organisation must -

1. be working with young people between the ages of 10 and 25 in keeping with national youth work guidelines, (we are particularly interested in projects with young people between the ages of 10 and 18 years).
2. have voluntary participation by young people
3. have at least 12 participants in the group
4. have been in existence more than 12 months by time of application
5. have and adhere to a child welfare policy
6. conduct activities that take place in out of school/voluntary context (not part of school curriculum)
7. demonstrate the principles of youth arts as outlined by NYCI (please see below)

B. Organisations applying for funding under this scheme should:

1. Demonstrate how the project will move forward after funding expires
2. Provide opportunities for new ways of working/experimentation/exploring creativity
3. Demonstrate commitment to the project financially and through other supports

C. The following enclosures must accompany your application –

1. Copy of your organisations Child Welfare Policy
 2. A copy of your organisations most recent draft financial accounts (these can be internal accounts)
 3. Artist's CV and information* (see note below)
 4. Names, addresses, contact number and email of Artists Referees
- Priority will be given to youth work and voluntary organisation not in receipt of core arts funding from other sources
 - Priority will be given to organisations who demonstrate a commitment to embedding youth arts into their programme of work, and who demonstrate a commitment to contribute to the programme from their own or other secured resources.
 - Organisations funded under this scheme must attend the networking/evaluation/project management day

*Artists CV's – artists involved in projects funded under this programme would ideally have a qualification in a related field, be a full or part-time professional practicing artist, have proven work experience in youth arts out of school contexts, provide the names of a minimum of two referees from projects where they've worked with young people in the past

Marking Criteria –

There will be 10 marks available for each category below, to a maximum of 100 marks:

1. Strength/Creativity of the Idea
2. Planning
3. Research
4. Skilled Delivery
5. Added value or new development for the group
6. Sustainability
7. Core commitment to youth arts in the organisation
8. Overall quality of the proposal
9. Not in receipt of core arts funding
10. Priority age group

NYCI PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH ARTS:

- Artistic and youth work processes are as important as any final outcome or product.
- **The process will be steered by youth arts practice/specialism**
The specialism can be provided equally by a youth work and arts practice partnership providing the complementary skills and support necessary to deliver a high quality project. It can also be led by a youth arts practitioner. A youth arts practitioner or specialist can be broadly described as either a youth worker with an arts specialism, an artist with a youth specialism, or, as described above, can be the partnership of these skill sets.
- The processes and outcomes are a collaboration between arts and youth work practice and between the practitioners/leaders and the young people.
- The development observable in the young person throughout the process includes both creative/artistic development and personal development.
- Authentic engagement and exploration of the art form is an objective of the project as well as a methodology through which youth work objectives may be achieved.
- High Quality Throughout. Young people are entitled to the best quality practice, time, space, support and materials available within the resources of an organisation.
- **Young people centred**
The focus of the work and activity should reflect the needs, abilities, interests and ambitions of the young people involved. The starting point for any activity or process should be what is in the best interests of the young people involved
- **Young people's participation in planning and decision making**
The active participation of young people in planning and deciding on the nature of projects and how they should be organized should be intrinsic to the work. Also systems should be in place to ensure the voice of

young people can provide formative evaluation on an ongoing basis. Young people should have access points into projects at all levels of planning and decision making and the right to participate at the level at which they are most comfortable – not all young people want to sit on boards or project design meetings, but the scope to involve those who do should be built in.

- **Planned programme as outlined in the Youth Work Act 2001**

The Youth Work Act defines youth work “as a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young person’s through their voluntary participation”. Arts practice in youth work should therefore conform to the legislative definition in that it is planned and purposeful, educational and developmental.

- **Voluntary participation**

A key principle underpinning the work will be the voluntary participation of young people in all activities.

- **Inclusive of all young people**

Any work or activity must be inclusive of all young people who want to participate. There may be some projects (for example a play, band or film) which will require auditioning or decision making about roles and responsibilities, but the wider programme around a particular project will encourage and value the unique contribution of each young person.

- **Mutual trust and respect between young people and workers/artists**

- **Run by organisations with a youth (rather than commercial or competitive) ethos**

Young people have a wide variety of opportunities to explore and engage in the arts organised by a variety of providers. In some cases the participation of young people depends on their prowess in the particular field or the capacity of their parents to pay the costs involved. Often, therefore, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations are uniquely placed to provide young people with opportunities to achieve their full potential which do not depend on the criteria above.

- **Ensemble or group process**

The activity or project is an ensemble or group process which creates opportunities for group interaction, team building, collaboration etc as well as for artistic exploration.

- **Espouses child protection guidelines**

All those working with children and young people must have adopted child protection policies and must ensure these are fully implemented in the best interests of children and those working with them.

- **Takes place in an out-of-school context**

Many young people engage in arts activities in a school or formal education environment; however youth work is non-formal education. This creates a different and complementary context in that the work is not part of a curriculum. This can facilitate great creativity, innovation and personal and social development of the young people involved.