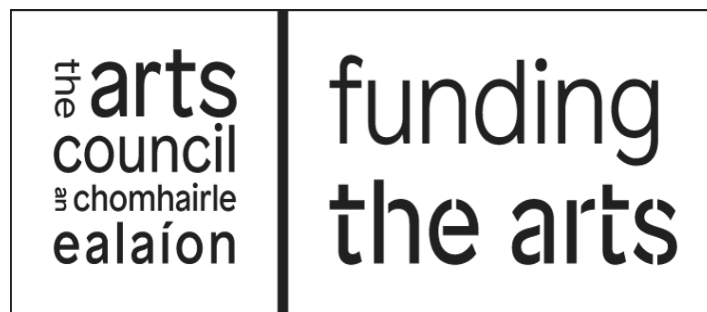


Monaghan County Council

Arts Strategy

2025 – 2031



18th February 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Monaghan Arts Strategy 2025 – 2031 1.1 Legislative and National Policy Context
2.	Monaghan County Council Arts Office

	2.1 Core Principles 2.3 Monaghan County Arts Office Funding & Supports 2.3.1 The Arts Partners Scheme 2.3.2 The Artist Support Scheme 2.3.3 Professional Artist's Value Added Scheme Funding & Supports Commitments 2.3.4 Funding and Support Commitments
3.	Strategic Priorities 3.1 Supporting Artists 3.2 Young People and the Arts 3.3 Music Generation 3.4 Monaghan Youth Arts Bursary 3.5 Objectives - Young People and the Arts
4.	Creating Capacity 4.1 Objectives 4.2 Arts Venues in County Monaghan 4.3 The Patrick Kavanagh Literary and Arts Centre 4.4 Clones Artists' Studios 4.5 The Market House – Monaghan 4.6 The Artist Studio, Carrickmacross 4.7 Íontas Theatre Arts and Community Resource Centre – Castleblaney 4.8 The Garage Theatre – Monaghan
5.	Events and Festivals 5.1 Funded Venues and Events
6.	Public Art
7.	Film Commission
8.	Artists' and Performers' Remuneration
9.	Competitive Events
10.	General Operational Principles 2025 -2031

11.	Climate Action
12.	Tourism and Heritage
13.	Legislative and National Policy Context
14.	The Arts Act 2003
15.	National Policy Context
16.	The Arts Council
17.	City & County Management Association
18.	Creative Ireland
19.	Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031
20.	Demographic Context of County Monaghan

1. Monaghan Arts Strategy 2025 - 2031

Monaghan County Council Arts Office provides a crucial role in supporting and nurturing the arts in Monaghan. The strategic vision for the Monaghan Arts Strategy is to acknowledge that valuing the work of artists, and recognising the context in which artists create art, should continue to be at the core of the work of the Monaghan County Council Arts Office. Maintaining a focus on the specifics for artists living, working and creating in Monaghan Arts Strategy 2025 -2031

Monaghan, is the framework for delivering the strategy. Monaghan is a County recognised for unique and special individual artistic voices. Monaghan County Council Arts Office is committed to maintaining an environment where support for artists remains to the fore.

Monaghan County Council Arts Office is focused and consistent in its approach to supporting the arts in Monaghan, through nurturing the work and endeavours of artists. The local authority funding available to the Monaghan County Council Arts Office is managed to reach artists and be of direct benefit to them. It shares and invests in the ambition of professional artists and shows confidence in their work and ideas. It gives support and credibility to those developing work locally who have larger ambitions for that work. Pragmatic and specific partnerships are forged, which directly benefit the development of individual art forms. An openness to listening to artists and annual funding schemes, which pair back criteria, are a clear signal of the keen focus of Monaghan County Arts Office. It is committed to ensuring that its work-provides a marker for the arts organisations and venues operating within the County. It also ensures that audiences in Monaghan have access to a wide range of arts experiences. Monaghan County Arts Office seeks to confirm its role in supporting artists; creating opportunities for young people to participate in and enjoy the arts, and ongoing capacity development through supporting Monaghan's venues for the arts, festivals and events. Similarly, the Arts Office will continue to focus on providing and supporting opportunities for artists living and working in the County.

The **Strategic Policy Committee for Tourism, Rural & Community Development; An Ghaeilge & Cultural Services** guides the development of arts policy in the County.

1.1 Legislative and National Policy Context

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media provides the resource, policy and legislative framework to support the stimulation and development of the arts in Ireland.

The Arts Act 2003

The arts as defined in **The Arts Act 2003**, incorporate “any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and including in particular, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture and includes any medium when used for those purposes.

Section 6 of the Arts Act 2003 requires local authorities to prepare and implement plans for the development of the arts within their functional areas. In doing so, local authorities may provide financial or other assistance in respect of activities, projects or undertakings for the

purposes of stimulating public interest in the arts, promoting knowledge appreciation and practice of the arts or improving standards in the arts within their functional area.

Government funding for the arts is generally channelled through the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon which is the national agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in Ireland. The Arts Council recognises that the arts have a central and distinctive contribution to make to our evolving society. Established in 1951, to stimulate public interest in and promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts, the Arts Council is an autonomous body, which is under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The Arts Council works in partnership with artists, arts organisations, public policy makers and others to build a central place for the arts in Irish life.

Local Government Act 2001

1. A local authority shall, for the purposes of section 67 of the Act of 2001, prepare and implement plans for the development of the arts within its functional area and shall, in so doing, take account of policies of the Government in relation to the arts.
2. A local authority may provide such financial or other assistance as it considers appropriate to such persons or in respect of such activities, projects or undertakings, for the purposes of—
 - (a) stimulating public interest in the arts,
 - (b) promoting knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts,
 - or
 - (c) improving standards in the arts, within its functional area.
3. A public body shall, in performance of any functions that relate to the Arts, have regard to Government policies relating to the Arts

2. Monaghan County Council Arts Office

PURPOSE

To support and foster artistic endeavour and the creative practice of artists and the arts in Monaghan.

MISSION

Monaghan County Council Arts Office will plan for the development of the arts within its functional area and will assist in the creation of an environment within which the arts strive and thrive.

VISION

Monaghan County Council Arts Office seeks to ensure that the County is recognised as a positive environment for artists, across all disciplines, in which to live and create. We wish to support arts practitioners and provide our communities with artistic experiences.

2.1 CORE PRINCIPLES

Commitment to Excellence

Monaghan County Arts Office will nurture and support excellence and encourage artists across all disciplines, to be ambitious and strive for excellence.

Investment

Monaghan County Arts Office will continue to invest in and support the development of individual artists and access to, and participation in the arts, for the citizens of Monaghan.

Respect for Equality Diversity and Inclusion

Monaghan County Arts Office, in all its work, will respect and support all voices, cultures and backgrounds that make up Ireland today.

"Culture is not a luxury, but a necessity for the well-being of any society."

President Michael D Higgins

2.3 Monaghan County Arts Office Funding & Supports

The Office offers a number of supports to individual artists and organisations:

1. The Arts Partnership Grant
2. The Artist Support Scheme
3. Professional Artists Value-Added Scheme

2.3.1 The Arts Partners Scheme

- This grant scheme is open to arts organisations, festivals, and projects that are based in County Monaghan and are of strategic importance in the landscape of the arts.
- Applicants must demonstrate a track record of achievement in the delivery of the arts in the County.
- In order to be considered for the Arts Partners Scheme, it is incumbent on any applicant, under this scheme, to apply to the Arts Council for funding first.

- The Arts Council's **Paying the Artist**, is fundamental to decisions made under this scheme.

<https://monaghan.ie/arts/2024/09/27/arts-partnership-application-form-artist-support-scheme/>

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/about/artists-pay-policy/>

2.3.2 The Artist Support Scheme

- Seeks to support the work of artists and to extend the range of opportunities for artists to develop their practice and to fulfill their promise.
- The support is a recognition by Monaghan County Council that artists are making a contribution to the creative and artistic life of the County.
- The scheme is open to emerging and established artists.

<https://monaghan.ie/arts/category/funding/>

2.3.3 Professional Artist's Value-Added Scheme

The purpose of the Scheme is to add value, through additional funding to professional artists, resident in Monaghan, who have been awarded a bursary from bodies such as The Arts Council/Culture Ireland or from any national agency with a remit in funding, developing and promoting the Arts.

<https://monaghan.ie/arts/value-added-scheme-2020-2027/>

"Freedom of expression for artists is an essential part of a properly functioning democracy. It's essential for us to have a diversity of voices and people willing to hold a lens up to society and reflect back what is happening."

Catherine Martin TD, former Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media 2020-25.

2.3.4 Funding and Supports Commitments

Over the lifetime of the strategy Monaghan County Council, seeks to increase the amount of funding it will make available under these supports. The sums outlined below are the total amounts available under each funding category.

- **The Arts Partnership Grant** total distributed annual funding will increase from **€75,000** in 2025 to **€110,000** by 2031.
- **The Artists Support Scheme** will increase from **€18,000** in 2025 to **€30,000** by 2031.
- **The Value-Added Scheme** will have a maximum value of **€10,000** in 2025 rising to **€15,000** by 2031. It will be allocated on a first come first served basis. This scheme will be reviewed in 2028.
- Artists, living in Monaghan, who meet the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig's residency criteria, will be offered funding for one week's stay, up to a maximum of 10 individual residencies per annum.

<https://monaghan.ie/arts/category/funding/>

<https://www.tyroneguthrie.ie>

3. Strategic Priorities

The strategic approach to the next seven years in Monaghan County Council Arts Office will be informed by the priorities and the objectives set out below. It will also be informed by The Arts Council and national government policies and plans.

After consideration of responses to the consultation phase and assessment of the actions outlined in the previous Arts Plan 2016-2023, the Arts Office seeks to focus on three strategic areas.

- **Supporting Artists**
- **Young People and the Arts**
- **Creating Capacity**

The work will require investment, commitment and partnership and the ongoing expertise, advocacy, support and guidance offered by Monaghan County Council Arts Office. Some objectives will also remain open in order to allow for new opportunities to be realised and for imaginative responses to the strategic priorities which emerge during the period of the strategy.

3.1 Supporting Artists

Monaghan County Council Arts Office has, and continues to, put professional artists at the centre of its strategic development. In order for the arts to flourish in Monaghan, the strategy has to be artist focused. The artist needs to know that we respect and support their work, understand the issues which impact them and appreciate the importance of their practice.

Objectives

- Ensure that there are ongoing opportunities for artists to live and work in Monaghan.
- Provide opportunities for artists to develop their practice.
- Advocate for artists at local and national level.
- Work with individuals and organisations who provide opportunities for artists.
- Ensure that bursaries provided by Monaghan County Council supports artists in the creation of their work or creative process.
- Ensure that Monaghan County Council Arts Office provides support to artists throughout their career, from emerging to established artists.
- Embark on partnerships that support artists directly.
- Agree and implement Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with artists and arts organisations in the county, through programmes that enable professional artists to strive and thrive.
- Continue to consult with artists on issues raised in the consultation process for this plan including - housing, places to work, venues for rehearsal and development of work
- As needs emerge, continue to be responsive and to listen to the views and concerns of artists.

3.2 Young People and The Arts

The development of opportunities for young people up to age 25 years to participate in and enjoy the arts will remain a primary focus in Monaghan County Council Arts Strategy over

the next seven years. Investment in youth arts is a recognition of the importance of the arts to young citizens, in their development, and the contribution the arts can make to young people. It is also a fundamental recognition of the need to regenerate the arts and to develop audiences for the arts going into the future.

Monaghan County Arts Office works closely with Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB), Cavan County Council and the National Youth Council of Ireland through the Local Arts in Education Partnership (LAEP). The LAEP's **Arts in Education Charter**, articulates and promotes the essential role of the arts in education, enabling students to be successful in school life and work. The LAEP supports the work of Music Generation and other youth arts programmes.

<https://www.cmetb.ie/local-arts-in-education-partnership/>

3.3 Music Generation

Music Generation's mission is to create inspiring experiences for children and young people through music. It believes that making and performing music should be a joyful experience that has the potential to transform children and young people's lives in many possible ways. For Music Generation, performance and music education means supporting children and young people to make and learn music in creative, diverse, inclusive ways, whether that's writing and performing a song, playing an instrument, practicing as part of an orchestra or jamming with a band. Music Generation Monaghan, supports hundreds of young people experience music education and projects across a range of genres.

3.4 Monaghan Youth Arts Bursary

The bursary scheme is designed in collaboration with the National Youth Council of Ireland and Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB), to support young people from Monaghan to participate in short youth arts projects in collaboration with a professional artist and within youth work and non-formal education settings.

This bursary scheme hopes to ignite and excite young people's interest in the arts, support them in developing new skills and to encourage them to find their voice through a youth arts process. The scheme also aims to support professional artists to develop their collaborative experiences working with young people and youth workers.

3.5 Objectives

- Continue to invest in and support Music Generation in Monaghan.
- Music Generation will be a formative partner with Monaghan Council in developing opportunities for young people from 0-18 years in performance and music education.
- Continue to invest in and support Local Arts in Education Partnership (LAEP) projects across the County, with support from Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB), Cavan County Council and The National Youth Council of Ireland.
- Seek to provide extra supports to schools participating in The Arts Council's Creative Schools Programme.
- Liaise with the venues in Monaghan to ensure that opportunities for participation in the arts and access to wide ranging programming, is maintained
- Listen to partners who work directly with young people to ensure that needs are being addressed.
- Ensure that communication with young people about opportunities and events are appropriate to reach the target group.
- Support arts programming which is targeted at young people. This is a key pillar of the support for festivals in Monaghan who provide programming opportunities for young people.

"My advice is this, do whatever pleases yourself. These things don't matter. What does matter is that if you have anything worthwhile in you, any talent, you should deliver it. Nothing must turn you from that."
Patrick Kavanagh

4. CREATING CAPACITY

Monaghan County Council Arts Office recognises the ongoing need to develop capacity in order to enhance the services offered and to achieve ambitions. The focus under capacity

are specific goals aimed at enhancing the experiences of artists and audiences within Monaghan. In addition to the ongoing work, the targeted activity will mainly focus on enabling and facilitating the increased capacity of arts venues to offer broader programmes in the County and to build on existing partnerships.

4.1 Objectives

- Liaise with venues, festivals and events in Monaghan to support capacity building. This may involve seeking additional investment, advocating with the venues and entering advantageous partnerships. Strong professional venues throughout Monaghan will serve the delivery of multi-disciplinary programming and provide additional opportunities for artists, across all artforms. Similarly, venues offer more possibilities for production, performance and audience development.
- Support the environment for professional artists, working in the county, through initiatives to improve access to cross discipline professional work places and spaces.
- Liaise with venues, places, spaces and events, assisting, where possible in realising their ambitions.
- Monaghan County Council Arts Office will support opportunities for the public to experience and engage with arts programmes.
- Monaghan County Council will seek to develop workspaces for artists in each of the County Towns. When developed these workspaces will be made available to professional artists at affordable rates.
- Monaghan County Council Arts Office will develop best practice guidelines for allocating workplaces for artists in council owned and managed properties.
- Monaghan County Council Arts Office will partner with arts organisations, in initiating Memorandums of Understanding, when they are making funding applications to The Arts Council.

4.2 Arts Venues in County Monaghan

Monaghan County Council owns and operates four arts facilities – The Patrick Kavanagh Literary and Arts Centre, Clones Artists' Studios, The Market House Monaghan Town and The Artist Studio, Market House, Carrickmacross. Additionally, there are two strategically important independent arts venues in the County – Íontas Theatre Arts and Community Resource Centre in Castleblaney and the Garage Theatre in Monaghan Town.

4.3 Patrick Kavanagh Centre

Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen acts as a cultural hub, organising and hosting a wide range of artistic events throughout the year, including the annual Patrick Kavanagh Weekend. It is also a visitor centre which celebrates the memory and legacy of the poet Patrick Kavanagh

Objectives

- Provide funding to support the programming of contemporary arts events in the centre.

4.4 Clones Artists' Studios

The studios provide four affordable workspaces for artists. It organises master classes and workshops for professional artists and acts as a cultural hub for events on occasions such as the Clones Film Festival.

Objectives

- The Council will work with the studio artists and others to develop engagement opportunities for arts professionals and interest groups that will allow for participation in the arts at the studios.
- The Council will seek to realise the potential of the studios through programming events, seminars and activities, in particular the long established and highly regarded Clones Film Festival.

4.5 The Market House - Monaghan

The venue will remain available as a-space for rehearsals, artist workspace, exhibition gallery and meeting place for arts organisers. This space will be provided at no cost to those using it for arts projects and gatherings.

4.6 The Artist Studio, Market House, Carrickmacross

The Council will continue to support this workspace for professional artists. The studio will be made available to selected professional artists on a timeframe that seeks to meet their practice needs.

4.7 Íontas Theatre Arts and Community Resource Centre, Castleblaney

Is a community run arts and community resource centre. It offers a flexible theatre space in configurations of 308 and 100 seats, a foyer gallery space, along with meeting rooms and workshop spaces. It plays a fundamental role in hosting local and touring productions and events. Íontas is a core partner of Creative Monaghan in the delivery of creative initiatives in the Castleblaney area.

Objectives

- Liaise with the venue in its ambition to be a development and rehearsal venue for professional production companies, while maintaining its important role in promoting and supporting local productions, workshops and classes.
- Seek to agree a Memorandum of Understanding which will support Íontas in its continuing development as a vibrant arts centre and in its quest to secure Arts Council funding.

4.8 The Garage Theatre – Monaghan

The Garage is a long-established arts venue in Monaghan Town, consisting of a 300 seat main auditorium and a 75 seat studio, along with a visual art studio and gallery. The venue is owned and operated by Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB). It plays a fundamental role in the delivery of arts in education programming, local productions and in hosting touring productions and events.

Objective

- Liaise with The Garage regarding its ambitions to become a production house, while maintaining its important role in promoting and supporting local productions, workshops and classes.

5. Events and Festivals

There are a number of longstanding events and festivals running in the County which have been supported in the past by Monaghan County Council. The-Arts Office is not an instigator or an organiser of events, however, it seeks to support and foster professionally organised arts events and festivals. Only events and festivals, which are artist led or

focused and/or support the work and continued investment in professional artists, will be supported.

Objectives

- The Council will seek to support, maintain and commit funding to long standing and emerging events and festivals that are in receipt of Arts Council funding.
- The Council will seek to agree Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with events, festivals and individuals who are making funding applications to The Arts Council for professionally organised events and projects.

5.1 Funded Venues and Events

It will be incumbent on venues, funded through Monaghan County Arts Partnership Grants Scheme to support local amateur performing arts groups in providing for an 80/20 box office split in favour of the local groups. This support will be in place by 2027.

6. PUBLIC ART

Monaghan County Council will work collaboratively with departments within the Council to ensure that the period of this strategy sees a growth in public art opportunities within Monaghan. The public art programme will be in line with the **2025 Percent for Art National Guidelines** (PUBLICATION PENDING).

www.publicart.ie

It is envisaged that Monaghan County Council will identify communities, locations and key partnerships for public art briefs. Innovation, ambition, local relevance and public engagement will be the focal points for a dynamic phase of public art programming. The cross-discipline nature and the potential to link with existing arts festivals will be explored for creative collaborations.

Objectives

In order to develop manage and implement a public art programme Monaghan County Council needs to appoint a public art specialist to drive a programme that follows best practice in commissioning.

- Monaghan County Council will establish an internal Public Art Working Group (PAWG) drawn from the Directorates and The Arts Office.

- The PAWG, will bring coordination and coherence to securing public art funding from capital projects and programmes within their remit.
- The PAWG will ensure that percent for art funding is applied for on the majority of capital projects undertaken by the Council.
- Monaghan County Council will develop a public art strategy and appoint a Public Art Advisory Group (PAAG) in line with the **2025 Percent for Art National Guidelines**.
- The PAAG will advise on general direction, project themes and briefs and offer feedback.
- Monaghan County Council will appoint a public art specialist in line with national guidelines. The specialist will be funded from public art allocations to the Council.
- Monaghan County Council is committed to developing best practice in commissioning public art projects across a wide range of art forms.
- Monaghan County Council will on the advice of the PAAG and in line with the **National Guidelines** allow for the pooling of public art funding across projects and Municipal Districts. It will also allow for the pooling of funds with other state agencies such as OPW, Uisce Éireann, Transport Infrastructure Ireland etc.

"To develop a complete mind: Study the science of art; Study the art of science. Learn how to see. Realise that everything connects to everything else."

Leonardo da Vinci

7. FILM COMMISSION

Monaghan County Council has recognised the potential to foster film talent within the County and to showcase sites and locations, through the development of resources for film makers who wish to produce work in Monaghan. Film production is a creative economic activity that is led by tax incentives and funding from Screen Ireland, the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, television channels and other film and television development and production funds.

Objectives

- Develop a resource where film companies can source information on professionals working in Monaghan, accommodation resources and an image bank of potential locations and sites of note/beauty in Monaghan.
- Monaghan County Arts Office will seek to offer bursaries to professionals emerging in film. Clones Film Festival will be sought as an additional partner in developing film in Monaghan, seeking to expand their existing bursary scheme.

- Monaghan County Council will endeavour to provide support to production companies filming in the County. It will act as conduit for information, advice and where possible practical help in terms of permits, road closures etc.

8. Artists' and Performers' Remuneration

Where Monaghan County Arts Office provides funding to individuals and organisations, it will be incumbent on them to ensure that The Arts Council's **Paying the Artist** and Visual Artists Ireland remuneration policies and guidelines are adhered to. This policy allows for the fair and equitable remuneration and contracting of artists and performers. Monaghan County Council will also adhere to these policies.

<https://www.artscouncil.ie/about/artists-pay-policy/>

9. Competitive Events

Monaghan County Arts Office will not support events in which the primary focus is competition.

10. General Operational Principles 2025 -2031

- Continue to build and foster inter agency partnerships which assist in the development of arts activity in Monaghan.
- Continue to be targeted and strategic in funding decision making
- Consider and assess the findings from the consultation phase of the strategy, remaining open to addressing, where possible, issues raised.
- Continue to communicate with artists and audiences, providing insights into events, opportunities and developments pertaining to the arts in Monaghan.
- Continue to ensure that opportunities welcome equality, diversity and inclusion.

11. Climate Action

Monaghan County Council, is committed to promoting best practice with regard to Climate Action for all arts organisations and event organisers, through helping to encourage them to improve their energy efficiency, promoting the use of active travel and public transport when organising events, and to encourage artists to raise awareness and take actions to promote a sustainable future.

12. Tourism and Heritage

Monaghan County Council Arts Office will seek to support professional arts initiatives impacting on tourism and heritage.

“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the true source of all true art and science.” Albert Einstein

13. Legislative and National Policy Context

Monaghan County Council’s Arts Strategy 2025 -2031 is informed and guided by legislation and national policies that includes the following:

- The Arts Act 2003
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- The Arts Council
- City & County Management Association
- Creative Ireland

14. The Arts Act 2003

The arts as defined in **The Arts Act 2003**, incorporate “any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and including in particular, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture and includes any medium when used for those purposes.

Section 6 of the Arts Act 2003 requires local authorities to prepare and implement plans for the development of the arts within their functional areas. In doing so, local authorities may provide financial or other assistance in respect of activities, projects or undertakings for the purposes of stimulating public interest in the arts, promoting knowledge appreciation and practice of the arts or improving standards in the arts within their functional area.

General Functions of The Arts Council defined in the Arts Act 2003.

- a) stimulate public interest in the arts,
- b) promote knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts,
- (c) assist in improving standards in the arts.

15. National Policy Context

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media provides the resource, policy and legislative framework to support the stimulation and development of the arts in Ireland.

The goal of the Department's Arts Division is to enhance access to and to recognise the social and economic role of the arts, culture and film sectors in Ireland by promoting and encouraging artistic expression, cultural awareness and participation, through an appropriate policy, legislative and resource framework.

The Department's National Cultural Policy Framework- Culture 2025 clearly articulates the important role of culture in Ireland, and sets out a road map for the cultural sector. The broader aims of Culture 2025 have also been taken into consideration in framing programme actions for the Monaghan Arts Strategy 2025-2031.

16. The Arts Council

Government funding for the arts is generally channelled through the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon which is the national agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in Ireland. The Arts Council recognises that the arts have a central and distinctive contribution to make to our evolving society. Established in 1951, to stimulate public interest in and promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts, The Arts Council is an autonomous body, which is under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The Arts Council works in partnership with artists, arts organisations, public policy makers and others to build a central place for the arts in Irish life.

The Arts Council's **Making Great Art Work**, identifies the following priorities:

THE ARTIST:

Artists are supported to make excellent work which is enjoyed and valued

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

More people will enjoy high-quality arts experiences.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY:

Public monies are invested effectively to realise priorities.

SPATIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC PLANNING:

Well-planned arts provision to benefit people across the country.

DEVELOPING CAPACITY:

Building knowledge, skills and inventiveness to realise this strategy.

17. City & County Management Association

In 2016 the Arts Council and the City and County Management Association (CCMA) published a **Framework for Collaboration**. The purpose of the agreement is to highlight the value and clarify the position of the strategic partnership between The Arts Council and local authorities nationwide, and to set out a vision and broad goals for what is to be achieved by the partners. It is an agreement expressing the commitment to working together in partnership, promoting and developing the arts, in an integrated manner. Through working together the goals are to strengthen the arts, improve public participation in the arts, and secure and sustain a vibrant arts infrastructure.

https://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/wwwartscouncilie/Content/Arts_in_Ireland/Local_arts/FrameworkforCollaboration.pdf

18. Creative Ireland

Established in 2017, Creative Ireland understands that participation in cultural and creative activity promotes the wellbeing of individuals, the community and the nation and that to be effective, it must be at the heart of public policy. Creative Ireland is a programme which connects people, creativity and wellbeing. Through partnerships with, local and national government, cultural and enterprise agencies and local enterprise, Creative Ireland creates pathways and opportunities for people and communities to unlock their creative potential. Monaghan County Council has developed a five year Cultural and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027, (Creative Monaghan) in association with Creative Ireland. The vision in that strategy is that “by 2027, County Monaghan will be a place where individuals and communities actively engage in cultural and creative opportunities which nurture our creative talent and mindset, whilst contributing to individual, social and economic benefits.”

19. Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031

Monaghan County Council has supported the development of the arts and provided financial support of the arts in the County since 1990. Its most recent plan allows for this support to continue and seeks “to encourage and assist in the development of the arts within County Monaghan, support the ongoing development of cultural infrastructure and encourage the provision of public art in all forms throughout the County.

Arts and Culture (Extract from Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031)

Monaghan County Council aims to encourage and assist in the development of the arts within the County, supporting the ongoing development of cultural infrastructure and encouraging the provision of appropriate public art in all forms throughout the County. The arts development plan 'Renewing the Case for the Arts' provides a five-year framework for strategic actions to be implemented on behalf of Monaghan County Council. The Council will support the ongoing development of cultural infrastructure in the County with the support from relevant Government Departments.

Monaghan County Councils Shared Strategic Actions in Arts Delivery with the Arts Council are:

1. Supporting Artists - Value and support the work of artists and extend the range of opportunities for artists to develop their practice.
2. Young people and the Arts - Increase opportunities for children and young people to create, access and participate in great art.
3. Creating Capacity - Investing in the professional development of venues, festivals and organisations providing high-quality arts experiences

Arts and Culture Objectives

CFO 6 To encourage and assist in the development of the arts within County Monaghan, to support the ongoing development of cultural infrastructure, and to encourage the provision of public art in all forms throughout the County.

CFO 7 To support, promote and invest in the arts, entertainment, language and culture across the County by facilitating development in appropriate locations.

<https://monaghan.ie/planning/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024/09/Written-Statement-Draft-Monaghan-County-Development-Plan-2025-2031.pdf>

20. Demographic Context of County Monaghan

County Monaghan is the fifth smallest of the Republic's 26 counties in area and according to Census 2022 has maintained its ranking as the county with the fourth lowest population in the country at 65,288.

Changes in the population

Monaghan Arts Strategy 2025 -2031

Monaghan is characteristically a rural county with just over 39% of its population living in urban settlements compared with 70.5% for the State.

The changes in age distribution of the population between 2016 and 2022 demonstrate a notable decrease of 6% in the proportion of children in the 0-8 year age range and points to marked increase of 14.1% in the proportion of 9-17 yr olds in the county population. At the other end of the age range, the most marked increase is in the number of 70-79 year olds in particular demonstrating an increase of 34% on the proportion of this age range reported in the last census.

Cultural diversity of the population

- County Monaghan demonstrates a higher proportion of its residents born outside of Ireland (22.7% in Monaghan compared to 20.0% for the whole country).
- One third (23) of the 70 electoral divisions (EDs) in County Monaghan have a higher proportion of residents who were not born in Ireland, compared to the county average.
- Three EDs have more than double the country-wide average number of residents who were not born in Ireland:
 - Clones Urban 46.4%
 - Monaghan Urban 46.3%
 - Castleblayney Urban 41.5%

Of the 8,034 residents of the county who do not speak English as their mother tongue, almost one quarter (22.7%) or one in five do not speak English well or at all. A further 4.4% did not indicate their proficiency – which might also suggest low levels of English language skills.