

Waterford Healing Arts Artist Panel Information Brief + Application Form



Waterford Healing Arts invites **artists of all art forms, including visual artists, musicians, writers and dance artists**, to apply to join its **Artist Panel**. Artists will be engaged to deliver key Waterford Healing Arts programmes at University Hospital Waterford (UHW) and other healthcare settings in Waterford.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **Friday 28 July at 12 noon**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview / audition, as appropriate.

Waterford Healing Arts (WHA) is Ireland's leading arts and health programme, providing opportunities for patients, family members and staff to engage in high quality arts experiences at UHW and other healthcare settings. The role of the artist is to deliver inspiring and uplifting arts experiences which are responsive to the needs of patients/ health service users, family members and healthcare staff.

Artists selected for the WHA Artist Panel will be engaged on a freelance basis for a period of two years to deliver key programmes, including, but not limited to:

- **Arts Programme in Renal Dialysis** (artists, musicians, writers, dance artists)
- **Healing Sounds** live music programme (musicians)
- **Iontas Arts and Mental Health Programme** (artists, musicians, writers, dance artists)
- **Open Gallery** inclusive art viewing programme (visual artists)

Artists, musicians, writers and dance artists interested in applying should have:

- previous experience in delivering participatory/ collaborative arts experiences
- excellent interpersonal skills
- an understanding of, and genuine interest in the role of the arts in healthcare contexts.

In addition, musicians should have:

- a high level of musical competence, performance experience and repertoire, and an ability / willingness to use voice.

Additional training will be provided. This includes induction training, shadowing opportunities, ongoing mentoring and continuous professional development workshops, as well as support from the Réalta/Waterford Healing Arts team.

This is an exciting opportunity for artists, musicians, writers and dance artists to work with a vibrant, forward thinking organisation, delivering arts programmes of the highest quality in healthcare and community contexts.

Waterford Healing Arts brings arts experiences – music, visual art, creative writing and storytelling – to the bedside of patients at University Hospital Waterford (UHW) and other healthcare settings. Core funded by the Arts Council and the HSE, this extensive arts and health programme promotes creativity, connection and discovery and seeks to reduce isolation, anxiety and stress for patients, family members and staff, and is delivered by professional artists in partnership with healthcare professionals. In addition, **as part of Réalta, the National Body for Arts + Health in Ireland**, Waterford Healing Arts offers its programmes and systems as examples of good practice, it pilots new ideas and initiatives, and this invaluable experience and insight informs Réalta's programmes.

Réalta, the National Body for Arts + Health in Ireland, shines a light on the transformative and central role the arts play in health. Réalta's vision is for the arts to be embedded into the provision of healthcare in Ireland. To this end, **Réalta** develops and delivers a range of arts and health training programmes for artists, healthcare professionals and arts and health managers; Provides access to information, mentoring and advice; Supports networking of arts and health practitioners; and engages with the HSE and other policy makers to increase understanding and support of arts and health practice. Core funded by the Arts Council, Réalta encompasses the Waterford Healing Arts programme and the national resource website artsandhealth.ie

Criteria for selection

Artists will be selected for the panel based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the artist's participatory / collaborative practice
- Level of relevant experience
- Commitment to the role of the arts in a healthcare context
- Responsiveness of the artist's practice to the context
- Availability of the artist

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview and/or audition, as relevant. The successful artists must be willing to go through a Garda Vetting process.

Réalta is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and encourages applications from all sections of the community under all ten grounds as set out in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Réalta is committed to respecting and protecting the privacy of applicants. We collect different kinds of personal data about applicants to manage the recruitment process and meet our legal obligations. It is Réalta's policy that this information is processed in accordance with Data Protection law. Records relating to the recruitment for the artist panel will be retained for one year.

Artist Pay

Under the current Artist Pay Policy for artists delivering the Waterford Healing Arts programme, artists receive:

€90 per artist for up to 1.5 hr session

€115 per artist/ €100 per mentee for up to 2hr session

How to apply

Please submit:

- A current CV (maximum 2 pages)
- Completed application form (Please see application form in Appendix II)
- Documentation of relevant practice: six fully captioned images / sound recordings / video links / publications including, where available, documentation of collaborative practice
- Contact details for two current referees

All of the above should be compiled into one PDF document to be clearly marked with your name. Due to restrictions on permitted email file size, the PDF document must not exceed 3MB.

Completed applications should be emailed to ClaireA.Meaney@hse.ie with 'Artist Panel' in the subject heading by **Friday 28 July at 12 noon**. E-mail applications should not exceed 3MB in size.

Appendix I - Arts Programmes

Arts programme in Renal Dialysis

The Arts Programme in the Renal Dialysis Unit at University Hospital Waterford (UHW) offers patients the opportunity to engage in visual art, creative writing and poetry, film, photography and live music during their lengthy periods on dialysis.

Waterford Healing Arts has been running an arts programme in the Renal Dialysis Unit at UHW since 2007. The Renal Dialysis Unit is an 18-bed unit, which accommodates approximately 90 chronic renal dialysis patients every week from the south-east of Ireland. Each patient attends for renal dialysis for 3-4 hours, usually three times per week. Artists work in the unit on a weekly basis, engaging patients in art making, including visual art, photography, writing and singing/music. The arts programme is funded by the Punchestown Kidney Research Fund and is supported by the staff members on the unit who are keen to provide positive, creative and absorbing activities for their patients.

It is never a requirement to produce an artistic outcome but, due to the nature of the unit and the duration patients engage with the artists, we have produced some wonderful artistic outcomes including poetry collections, exhibitions, audio recordings, memoirs and our first comic book. See <https://www.waterfordhealingarts.com/programmes/arts-programme-in-renal-dialysis/>

Healing Sounds Music Programme

Our Healing Sounds live music programme brings live music to the bedside of patients in various healthcare settings to give people a lift, to brighten the atmosphere and to humanise the space. Waterford Healing Arts currently brings Healing Sounds to the South East Palliative Care Centre, University Hospital Waterford and Waterford Residential Care Centre.

Through music, our professional musicians, who are trained to work in healthcare settings, help to ease the anxiety and worry often experienced by patients and their families. Music can be a comfort to people at all stages of life, offering people a positive experience which can make a real difference and help a person to feel 'normal' at a difficult time.

Healing Sounds on the Wards has been running for 14 years and is currently delivered by a team of five musicians, and supported by Waterford Healing Arts staff. The programme enhances quality of life for patients, family members and staff by moving the conversation away from the illness, creating new memories and promoting connection. See <https://www.waterfordhealingarts.com/programmes/healing-sounds/>

Iontas Arts and Mental Health Programme

The Irish word for 'wonder' or 'surprise', our Iontas Arts & Mental Health programme brings arts experiences, such as music, visual art, creative writing, storytelling and drama to people experiencing mental health issues, to support their wellbeing and recovery.

Iontas is delivered by a team of skilled and experienced professional artists and reaches a broad range of mental health service users across the community. Iontas takes place in a number of settings including the Recovery Hub, Odhran Lodge, Grangemore and Aidan's Ward at St Otteran's Hospital; Waterford Residential Care Centre, the Department of Psychiatry (DOP) at University Hospital Waterford (UHW) and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Iontas has been running since 2014, having originally started as a Music in Mental Health Settings programme in 2007, before broadening out to include other artforms. Now delivered in partnership

with the Waterford Wexford Mental Health Services (WWMHS), Iontas is guided by a steering committee and is funded through a Section 39 Service Level Agreement with the HSE (Waterford Wexford Mental Health Services) and Arts Council Strategic Funding. See <https://www.waterfordhealingarts.com/programmes/iontas-arts-mental-health-programme/> and <https://www.artsandhealth.ie/case-studies/iontas-arts-and-mental-health-programme/>

Open Gallery, inclusive art viewing programme

Open Gallery is an art viewing programme which invites people – and their family members/carers – to look at, discuss and enjoy paintings from the University Hospital Waterford (UHW) Art Collection in a safe and welcoming space, supported by professional artists.

In each session, participants explore up to three paintings, making observations, describing, building connections and enjoying art together. The paintings usually have a theme, for example, landscapes, portraits, colour etc. Participants do not need any experience, or to know anything about art to take part in Open Gallery. The conversations are structured, and begin gently with questions such as “What do you see? What colours can you see?” before moving on to interpreting the painting, for example “What time of year do you think it is? Why do you think that?” etc. During some Open Gallery sessions participants have the opportunity to make art in response to the paintings in the room. Each session lasts about one hour and finishes with a cup of tea and a lively discussion!

Open Gallery is currently being delivered to residents of Waterford Residential Care Centre, a long-stay care facility in Waterford City, and brings great joy, creativity and discovery to the participants and staff. Open Gallery will shortly resume sessions on the elder care wards at UHW.

Open Gallery was developed by Waterford Healing Arts in 2018, and was adapted for the healthcare setting from “Meet Me at MoMA”, an internationally renowned and evaluated programme of dementia-friendly art looking workshops, devised by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and introduced to Ireland as the “Azure Programme” by the Butler Gallery in Kilkenny, in collaboration with Age and Opportunity, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland and IMMA (Irish Museum of Modern Art). See <https://www.waterfordhealingarts.com/programmes/open-gallery/> and <https://www.artsandhealth.ie/case-studies/open-gallery/>

Appendix II – Application form

Your name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Your artform(s):

Please tick the programmes you are interested in delivering:

Iontas Arts and Mental Health Programme

Healing Sounds Music Programme

Arts programme in Renal Dialysis

Open Gallery, inclusive art viewing programme

A statement of interest, including a summary of your arts and health ethos. This should describe your methods of working, including the key qualities you think are essential to working in healthcare environments. (max 200 words)